

Australian

Wild

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**bushwalking, ski touring
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**Franklin River
rafting guide**

**Bushwalking:
food, Mt Barney,
Flinders Ranges**

Canoe touring

**Ski touring and
walking history**

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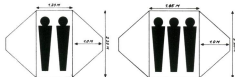
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Wild
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canoeing and climbing magazine

Summer (January/February/March) 1984, Vol 4 No 1 (issue 11)

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MT EVEREST
EXPEDITION 1984

Cover Matthew Moore has captured Lloyd Harrington (without helmet!) plunging through a rapid in Tasmania's Denison River Gorge. (See Track Notes on page 59 for information on rafting the nearby Franklin River.) **Contents** Michael Fogarty's turn, this time on the Franklin. (See Track Notes.) Photo Tracey Diggins. *Maximum recommended retail price only.

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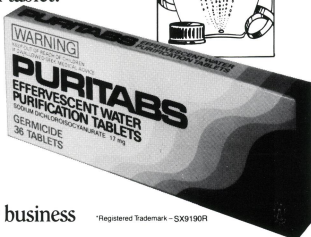
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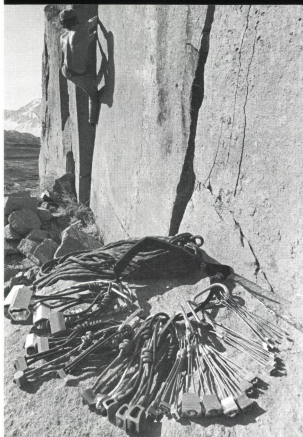


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Contributions, preferably well illustrated with slides, are welcome. *Guidelines for Contributors* are available on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope. Submissions must be typewritten, double-spaced with wide margins, using only one side of the paper, and accompanied by an envelope and sufficient postage for their return. Names and addresses should be written on manuscripts and photos as well. While every care is taken, we accept no responsibility for material submitted. Articles represent the views of the authors, and not necessarily those of the publisher.

Editorial

A Wild Story

● *WILD* STARTED ALMOST THREE YEARS AGO, in the front bedroom of a small suburban house in Melbourne. The first issue was a relatively modest affair, but those were hectic days (and nights!) for the original two-man *Wild* team of Mike Collie and myself.

While *Wild*, and certainly its readership, have grown somewhat since that hazardous and cyclonic time, things at the office have changed little. It is still a close-knit, independent team, with each member liking to spend his leisure in the bush and wilderness areas and his working hours helping to produce a magazine which, hopefully, will be a worthy celebration of the wonderful wild places, and an encouragement to preserve them. Part of neither a large business conglomerate nor aligned with any vested interest, we count ourselves lucky in our work.

We learn about you, our readers, from your letters, telephone conversations and, best of all, through meeting you personally in out-of-the-way places. Perhaps you would like to know something about us.

This is the *Wild* team.

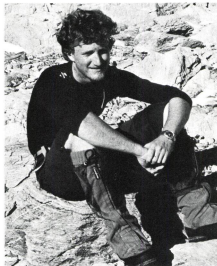
At the core of *Wild* is its solid body of regular subscribers, many of whom sent their money for the magazine, sight unseen, long before the first issue had even gone to press. Taking care of your subscriptions is Tom Millar, who joined *Wild* a year ago after returning with the first Australian expedition to the Himalayan peak Nanda Devi. Before that he worked with a well-known Melbourne outdoor equipment retailer.

Tom manages our complex and substantial subscription system and makes sure our subscribers all get the right issue at the right



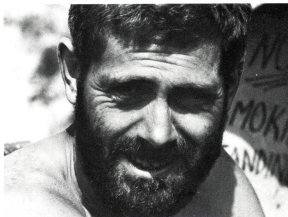
A proficient and enthusiastic climber, bushwalker and ski tourer, Mike has introduced many beginners to these activities. This year his trips have included walking the Mt Anne circuit in Tasmania, an epic winter visit to the Cobberas in Victoria and rockclimbing at Queensland's Frog Buttress.

Before becoming founder and editor of *Wild* I had been active in Australian climbing for a number of years in between those spent



time! He is also our equipment and mapping expert, but denies he is a gear freak! A keen skier, last winter he skied from Mt Bogong to Mt Hotham in a day. When the snow melts he bushwalks and goes cycle touring.

The design and production of *Wild* since the first issue has been in the hands of Mike Collie. Apart from 'work experience' while at art college, he has never worked anywhere else. (And after *Wild*, where could he? Ed.) Renowned for energy and drive, unflappable under pressure, he is responsible not only for *Wild*'s appearance but also its advertising.



working and climbing in New Zealand, Europe and North America. I had also written rockclimbing guidebooks and edited the annual climbing magazine, *Rock*, now published by *Wild*.

Most week-ends find me trying to establish new climbs at Mt Arapiles or the Grampians, but I recently seem to have acquired a reputation for spectacular plummets.

Although city-born, I am lucky in having been able to enjoy the Victorian Alps and high country since I was 14, bushwalking, climbing and occasionally ski touring, with a camera in my rucksack.

For this summer's visit to New Zealand I will be in the company of the *Wild* team's newest honorary member: we will be on our honeymoon.

Chris Baxter
Editor & Publisher

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.....without the heavyweight price tag

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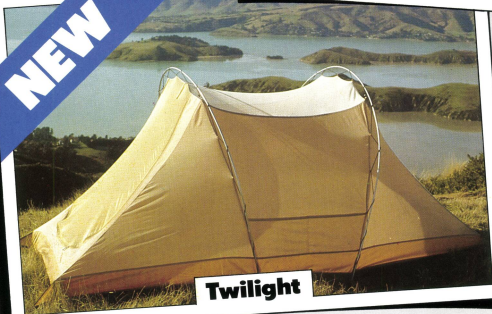
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Wild Information

Leading Climbers Killed

• Bill Denz, Jeff Lamb and Mark Moorhead.

In an horrific and quite unprecedented month, in October, three of Australasia's outstanding climbers were killed in separate incidents. These deaths of such popular and leading figures have left the Australian and New Zealand climbing world stunned. They underline the extreme risks taken by those at the forefront of modern climbing, particularly in the Himalayas where the carnage of the world's best climbers has reached sobering levels.

Bill Denz, 32, Australasia's most successful mountaineer (see interview in *Wild* no 10), was a member of a four-man team attempting the West Ridge of Makalu (8,481 metres) the world's fifth highest peak, in the Himalayas (see *Wild* no 9 — Information). On 3 October he was killed in an avalanche at about 6,400 metres as he was descending from camp two. A New Zealander, Denz was from Dunedin. Early reports indicated that the expedition was then called off, but towards the end of October more tragic news was received indicating that this apparently had not been the case.

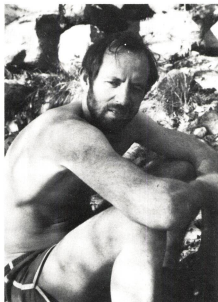
Mark Moorhead, 23, died when he slipped and fell descending between camps three and two on Makalu. A particularly modest and well-liked Melbourne climber, Mark had established scores of first ascents, particularly at Mt Arapiles, Victoria. He was recognized as one of the two or three best rockclimbers in Australia, with new routes to his credit as hard as any in this country. He flabbergasted local climbers with his unroped solo ascents of Mt Arapiles climbs such as Squeakeasy (22), A Taste of Honey (21) (the climb pictured in the *Rock* advertisement in this issue), Scorpion Corner (21) and even harder routes. He turned to mountaineering at a relatively young age and quickly did some test-pieces in outstanding style: in New Zealand, Mt Tasman's Balfour Face and, in Europe, the South Face of the Fou, Mt Blanc's Freney Pillar and the North Faces of Les Droites and the Charnoz. Last year he was a driving force behind the outstanding ascent of Changabang described in *Wild* no 8.

The 1984 issue of *Rock* includes a humorous article by Mark and another article, by Kim Carrigan, about the recent first ascent on Tasmania's Frenchmans Cap by Mark and Kim which is probably Australia's hardest long climb.

Jeff Lamb, 37, the outstanding and extremely popular English rockclimber who migrated to Australia in 1981, was killed in mysterious circumstances on 12 October at Queensland climbing area Frog Buttress, Mt French National Park. Alone at the cliff mid-week, Lamb's body was found in his nearby van. He was in his sleeping bag and had a gaping head injury. It seems possible that some form of stonefall may have been responsible but we are not able to comment further on this until after the inquest into his death.

Lamb earned a reputation as one of Britain's leading pioneers of new climbs before he emigrated to Australia. Here he quickly established himself in the hurly-burly of Australian climbing with important new climbs, particularly at Mt Arapiles, Victoria, and Frog Buttress. However, unlike many leading

Jeff Lamb at Frog Buttress and, right, Mark Moorhead at Mt Arapiles. Robin Miller and Glenn Tempest



climbers, he was renowned for his amiable good nature, modesty and true sportsmanship and was known, particularly in England, as 'The Friendly Jackal'.

At the time of his death, Lamb was still recovering from terrible injuries received in a hit-run accident, also in Queensland. In a matter of months, he had recovered from near death and was just returning to the climbing form he had enjoyed prior to that accident.

• **Sisters.** Further to the report in *Wild* no 10, the Blue Mountains City Council has, as anticipated, banned climbing on the famous New South Wales landmark, the Three Sisters. Described as a 'temporary' measure, the ban was introduced because of fears of rocks being dislodged on to tourist tracks. Why these tracks can't be re-routed away from the cliffs is a question worthy of further investigation.

• **The Greatest Tiger Walk?** In July, Peter Treseder completed a circuit 'tiger walk' of New South Wales' southern Blue Mountains, climbing Yerranderie Peak, Mt Colong, Mt Cloudmaker, Mt Paralyser and Mt Guougang in 22 hours 43 minutes. Starting at 9 pm on a Friday night, he covered 165 kilometres and ascended almost 5,500 metres. He completed this remarkable endurance walk at 7.43 pm the following day at his starting point of Cliff Drive, Katoomba. The route was as follows: Katoomba — Narrowneck — Scotts Main Range — Yerranderie Peak — Mt Colong — Church Creek Caves — Cambage Spire — Kanangra Walls — Mt Cloudmaker — Mt Paralyser — Mt Guougang — Mt Queahong — Mt Jenolan — The Gasparis — Narrowneck — Katoomba.

Derek Cantle

• **Third National Wilderness Conference.** 'Fighting for wilderness' was the theme of the Third National Wilderness Conference sponsored by the Australian Conservation Foundation and held at Katoomba, New South Wales, 16-18 September 1983.

The keynote address was given by Mike McCloskey, Executive Director of the Sierra



Club. He recounted experiences of American conservationists in their battles to save wilderness, and pointed to those factors which he felt were important in successful campaigns. In particular, he identified the need to 'aim high' when deciding on the objectives of a campaign, and emphasized that the basic fight was between conservationists and exploiters.

Another highlight of the first day was the account given by Dr Bob Brown of the reasons for success in the fight to stop the Gordon-below-Franklin dam. In one of his rare public appearances without a suit, Bob stressed that it was necessary to direct the campaign to the general public through a number of avenues. Other speakers dealt with battles lost and won in various Australian wilderness areas.

An ominous speech was presented by Ross Free, Federal Australian Labor Party member for Macarthur, on behalf of the Minister for Home Affairs and Environment, Barry Cohen. He concentrated on human values of wilderness and indicated that wilderness areas had to be opened up to the general public. This attitude could have serious implications for the preparation of a management plan for South-west Tasmania where there are already numerous proposals for tourist roads into the heart of the wilderness.

The second day of the Conference was taken up with further speakers, workshops and a tour of the Newnes Plateau which forms the south-western boundary of the Colo-Hunter wilderness, the largest in New South Wales.

The workshops continued on the morning of the third day, followed by a plenary session in the afternoon. The major resolution of the Conference was to adopt a National Wilderness Strategy aimed at protecting all remaining wilderness areas in Australia. The strategy would be implemented by a committee made up of representatives from each State.

Overall, the Conference succeeded in educating delegates in means of protecting wilderness and provided a good starting point for a co-ordinated national campaign.

Roger Lembit



SLEEPING BAGS

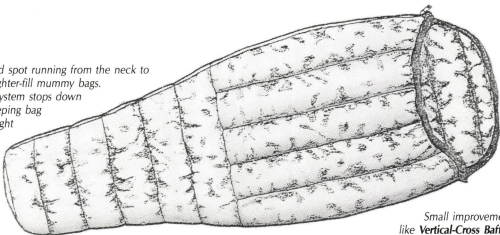
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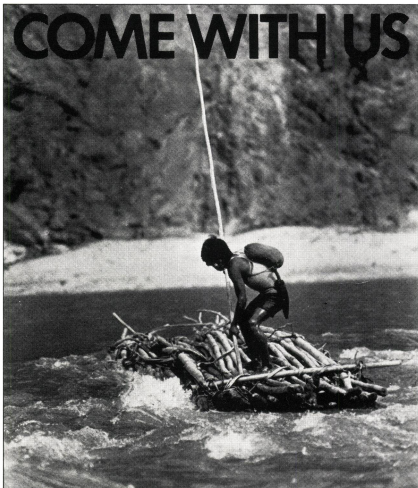
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● **Wilderness Announcements at Conference.** Three State governments announced greater protection for wilderness areas under their control at the ACF Wilderness Conference. In Queensland, 17,000 hectares were added to the Caloola National Park, west of the Noosa River.

The South Australian government announced Stage Three of the Gammon Ranges National Park which includes a large area of Mitchell grass plain.

Finally, the New South Wales government announced the gazetting of the Brogo wilderness within Wadbilliga National Park. This last announcement disappointed many NSW conservationists because it was expected that a number of areas would be gazetted, notably Kanangra, Deua and Colo-Hunter. Lack of gazetting allows continued use of fire roads by off-road vehicles and other uses incompatible with wilderness.

RL

● **Road in Wollangambe Wilderness.** Bushwalkers have recently discovered a new road hacked through the forest and scrub in the Wollangambe wilderness of the Blue Mountains. The road heads towards the junction of Dumbano and Cesspit Canyons.

Investigations are proceeding aimed at identifying those responsible for this act of vandalism.

RL

● **Adventure Lectures.** Leading British adventure film-maker, Leo Dickinson, is to have a lecture tour in Australia. His filming achievements include the first ascent of Mt Everest without artificial oxygen, the North Face of the Eiger, 'caneing down the roof of the world', exploring the Patagonian Ice Cap and a balloon race. His first lecture is to be in Sydney on 14 February and the final one in Hobart on 1 March. Further details are available from Adventure Travel Centre which is sponsoring the lectures.

● **Explorers Fund.** The Fund has made grants to a number of projects including the 1983 Heard Island Expedition, a film on rafting the Katherine River in Australia's Northern Territory, and the Simpson Desert Camel Expedition.

● **Off.** The Kosciusko Tour announced in *Wild* no 10 and to have been held on 18 September was cancelled through lack of snow.

● **More Kosciusko 'Development'.** Following the report in *Wild* no 8 of a proposed tunnel under part of the Kosciusko National Park, New South Wales, a local company is reported to have proposed a new \$12 million road and car-park. The plan includes provision for an additional 4,000 car spaces for parking in the mountains, and widening of the Kosciusko Road to increase its carrying capacity. The new plan is said to have been put up in opposition to the proposed tunnel scheme.

● **Kiandra to Kosciusko.** Klaus Hueneker, author of the widely acclaimed *Huts of the High Country*, is now working on a book on the Kiandra to Kosciusko crossing and is anxious to hear from people who skied or walked this classic route before the 1960s and especially those who have done it solo or on a bicycle. Please write to Klaus Hueneker, 40 Miller Street, O'Connor, ACT 2601.

● **New Map.** A new *Denison* 1:25,000 map of the Snowy Mountains has been published by the Central Mapping Authority of New South

Wales and covers the area around Lake Eucumbene and Kiandra.

● **Rogaining.** The 1983 New South Wales Rogaining Championships, held along the Liverpool Range, were won by Andrew Blakers and Adrian Spragg with a score of 760 points.

Melbourne University's thirty-seventh annual 24-Hour Walk, held near Pyalong, Victoria, was won by Darren Fawkes, Jenny Fawkes and Andrew Walker.

The proposed Alpine Rogaine scheduled for 3 September on Victoria's Bogong High Plains was cancelled because of bad weather.

● **Death on Mt Feathertop.** A young climber died on Victoria's Mt Feathertop while participating in an Alpine Instruction Course run by the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club. The climber, Steven Gallard, slipped while traversing across the top of the steep East Face. He tried unsuccessfully to self-arrest with a snow shovel but fell several hundred metres.

Despite efforts to resuscitate him, he died later that night, 20 August 1983, from severe injuries.

● **Logging Breaches?** It has been reported that logging activities have been conducted in the vicinity of Hellfire Creek near Heyfield in south-eastern Victoria, a remote and beautiful area valued for its wilderness qualities. It is not clear whether the Forests Commission of Victoria has given permission to log here, but if they have not, conservationists would naturally expect the Commission to investigate the matter.

● **Victorian Alpine 'Development' Proposals.** Mt Hotham is under siege by developers from at least two sides. One developer is reportedly proposing a \$200 million project that includes a 15 kilometre tourist railway from Harrietville. It is further reported that the plan includes a nine kilometre tunnel under the Bogong National Park, three above-ground railway stations, and gondola lift services to carry tourists across the snowfields. New ski runs, accommodation and car-parks are also envisaged. The Director of the Australian Conservation Foundation has been quoted describing the proposal as a 'mad hatter's scheme' and as saying that conservation groups would oppose it.

Another plan affecting the Mt Hotham area is the proposed Dinner Plain ski resort, a luxury development to cater for 2,000 skiers. Conservationists are challenging a licence granted to the Shire of Omeo to discharge effluent from it into the Victoria River. Conservationists claim that not only will the wastes pollute the river, but the proposed sewage treatment plant cannot meet the conditions of the licence.

● **Alpine Walking Track.** Walkers intending to traverse the Alpine Walking Track this summer are reminded that restrictions are still in force in the Thomson River water catchment. Overnight camping is prohibited in the catchment at least until the dam starts to fill and walkers must be out of the catchment within 24 hours. This means that the section from Mt Whitelaw on the Baw Baw Plateau to Aberfeldy must be completed in one long day of 27 kilometres.

It is also essential to obtain a permit from the Soil Conservation Authority, 378 Cotham Road, Kew, Victoria 3101 prior to commencing the walk. The permit system is designed to give the Soil Conservation Authority information about the popularity of the Alpine Walking

Track. The more people seen to be using the Track, the better the chances that it will remain open. It is to be hoped that access to the catchment will not be restricted, but if it appears that few people walk along the Track there is not much argument for keeping it open. So please apply for those permits.

John Siseman

● **Michael McCloskey of the Sierra Club Visits Australia.** The Australian Conservation Foundation recently brought to Australia Michael McCloskey, of the Sierra Club, to be Keynote Speaker at ACF's Third National Wilderness Conference, held in Katoomba in the Blue Mountains. (See report above.)

The Sierra Club is America's most influential organization of conservation activists, and Michael McCloskey has been Executive Director for the past 20 years. He was involved



Sierra Club Executive Director, Michael McCloskey. Courtesy Australian Conservation Foundation

in successful lobbying campaigns which persuaded the United States Congress to establish 110 million acres of new National Parks and Wildlife Refuges in Alaska in 1980.

Since the election of President Reagan and the appointment of James Watt as Interior Secretary, increased lobbying efforts have been necessary to stop the reversal of many of the Club's hard-won conservation victories.

The Sierra Club has successfully led the efforts to keep the United States Congress from weakening air pollution control laws. Currently it is helping to lead the campaign to prevent 11 million acres from being stripped of their status as National Parks in Alaska.

The Sierra Club Committee on Political Education (SCOPE) made official nationwide endorsements of political candidates, based on their voting record on conservation issues. This was done for the first time at the last American elections. All endorsed candidates were returned and many vital committees of Congress have been considerably strengthened from an environmental point of view.

Michael spoke with conservationists in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane during his visit, on the topic of 'Conservation and Politics'.

Beverly Broadbent

● **Olegas Truchanas Canoeing Award.** The 1983 Award has been won by Terry Bolland of Western Australia for his log of the 'Kimberly Kayak Expedition'. His trip covered 100 days, in a sea kayak journey from Broome to the

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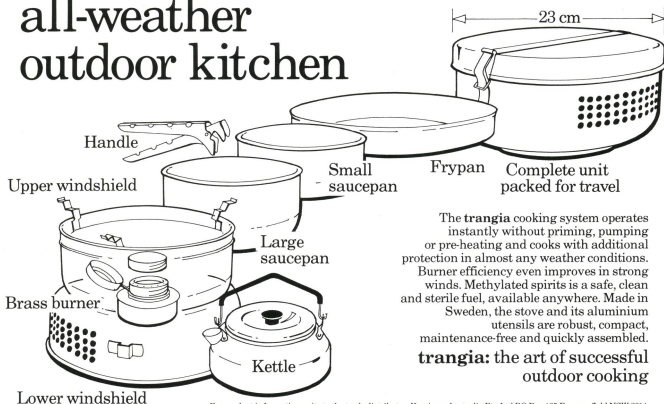
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Mitchell Plateau in the north of Western Australia.

Seven other entries were received during the inaugural year of the Award: Tasmanian Canoeing Expedition to the Greek Islands, the Franklin River, Bass Strait, Shoalhaven River, Wenlock River (Cape York), New Zealand canoe trip and Colo River.

More details of the Award, and copies of the logs of the entries can be obtained from the Australian Canoe Federation, Touring Committee, PO Box 78, Hampton, Victoria 3188.

Yvonne McLaughlin

• New Edition of Place Names Register Now Available. 'What's in a name?', someone once asked. The answer is, 'Quite a lot', especially to members of Victoria's Place Names Committee.

The Committee has been assigning and approving names for Victorian features and localities since its establishment in 1966. As a result, it now has a register of place names containing nearly 40,000 entries.

Why keep such a register? Mainly because the Place Names Committee is required by an Act of Parliament to assign names to places and to keep a register of these names. This, however, is not a mere whim of government but is a sensible means of making sure that the correct names for features are used on maps, and that the features can be readily located.

It also helps to clarify the situation when a feature has more than one name or where many features have the same name. For example, there are 74 Stony Creeks and 27 Bald Hills. Variant names for a feature are also listed, followed by a reference to the standard name in brackets.

The register gives the latitude and longitude of each feature to the nearest minute, the number code of the map sheet on which it can be found, as well as the zone and grid reference.

The Register of Place Names in Victoria costs \$15 and is available from the Department of Crown Lands and Survey's Map Sales Centre, Ground Floor, 35 Spring Street, and the Central Plan Office, 2 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

Top left, Cape Nelson from Victoria's Great South West Walking Track: Bill Gilding. Top right, Australian Conservation Foundation Wilderness Conference field trip, Newnes Plateau, New South Wales, Roger Lembit.

• Wild Art. To celebrate the success of the Franklin River campaign, the Wilderness Society organized exhibitions in Melbourne and Sydney of paintings and etchings of the Franklin and Gordon Rivers area by Clifton Pugh, Max Miller and Mike Riley. Proceeds from the sale of the art are being used to assist the Society's continuing efforts to protect Tasmania's Southwest.

• Fighting Fire with Fire. On 17-18 September a symposium and field trip on 'fuel reduction burning' in forests was held at Victoria's Monash University and, scene of disastrous bushfires last year, Mt Macedon. It was co-sponsored by the University, Forests Commission of Victoria and Conservation Council of Victoria.

• Grampians National Park. It is reported that the spectacular Grampians area is to become a National Park on 1 July 1984. It will have the same boundaries as proposed in the Land Conservation Council's final recommendations, published in May 1982, and will be Victoria's biggest National Park — 166,000 hectares.

• Mt Arapiles Desecration? A local politician and an antenna manufacturer are pressing for the construction of a national television translator tower on Mt Arapiles, Victoria's main rockclimbing area. It is claimed that the tower could improve television reception for people in the (sparsely-populated) district.

• Track Opening. The Great South West Walk which will hold its place among the best long distance walking tracks in Australia (see Track Notes in *Wild* no 8), was officially opened on 13 November by the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, the Honourable R Mackenzie.

The 200 kilometre walk is through spectacular and varied scenery in south-west Victoria. It offers stately forests, serene river gorges, wild wind-swept beaches and rugged, imposing cliffs.

Noted bushwalker, author, historian and *Wild* Contributing Editor, Dr Sandra Bardwell, who walked the Track two years ago, described it as 'fantastic'.

Walkers may tackle the whole Track in one ten-day trip, stopping at some of the 14



campsites on the way. Alternatively, they may choose a variety of shorter walks.

Construction of the Walk has been a triumph of co-operation between many authorities and individuals. Portland High School, the National Parks Service, the Forests Commission, the Lands Department, the Shire of Portland and a great many community volunteers have pooled their efforts in this massive project.

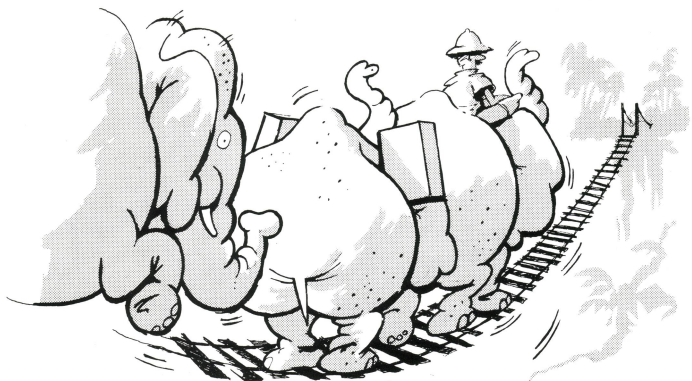
Bill Gilding

• Tasmanian Books. The Tasmanian Government Publications Centre, 134 Macquarie Street, Hobart, Tasmania 7000, stocks a number of recent books that may be of interest to readers: *Wild About Tasmania* (\$4.95) introduces readers to 150 Tasmanian Parks and Reserves, whilst *An Atlas of Tasmania's Endemic Flora* (\$4.00) will be of particular interest to wilderness lovers wishing to increase their knowledge of the country they walk through. We are not so sure, however, that *The Australian Pulwood Story* will be a bestseller with *Wild* readers...

• Cradle Mountain Run. The fourth annual Cradle Mountain Run is to be held on 11 February. Run from north to south by the famous Overland Track, the unofficial record for this 80 kilometre trip is 9 hours 25 minutes. Those interested in participating in the event can contact Nick Goldie, GPO Box 946, Launceston, Tasmania 7250.

• Cradle Mountain Besieged. For bushwalkers throughout Australia, the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park has an almost sacred appeal. Thousands walk its Overland Track every year. The place conjures up feelings of adventure and enchanted isolation, qualities which in December 1982 received international recognition when the Park was added to the World Heritage List.

Yet those very qualities are under threat. This summer a road could be driven to within two kilometres of the serrated summit of Mt Oakleigh. There are plans to log and clear-fell as much as practicable of the high plains to the north, and the eastern side of the upper Forth valley to within 300 metres of the World Heritage Area boundary! Very soon, Overland Track bushwalkers standing on the edge of Pine Forest Moor may be greeted with the din of log-trucks and chain saws.



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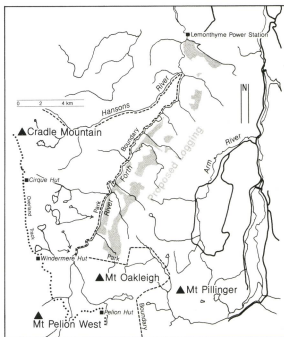
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The Tasmanian Forestry Commission is sensitive to the seriousness of this proposal and has gone to considerable lengths to prepare a 'landscaped logging' plan. Nevertheless, scarring would still be visible from all the major peaks in the northern Reserve—Cradle Mountain, Barn Bluff, Pelion West and Mt Oakleigh itself. But the adverse effects go well beyond scarring and noise.

Vehicular access brings bushfire. And in Tasmania, so do forestry fire-management and regeneration practices. Remember Lake Rhona? It was burnt out last year by a 'hazard reduction burn' that got out of control. Most Tasmanian bushfires are started by people near roads, the most devastating results occurring during the hot summer northerlies. In February 1982, a fire swept south of the Savage River Road on Tasmania's west coast and incinerated an area of rugged mountain forest equal to about 40% of the Reserve. And in 1981, an



arsonist's fire swept south from the Hydro-Electric Commission's Lake Rowallan, destroying rainforest and pencil pine at Lake Myrtle, deep in the heart of Tasmania's Central Highlands. South of Mt Oakleigh are Mt Ossa, the Du Cane Range, the Labyrinth and Pine Valley, Australia's most spectacular, most visited and most fragile alpine wilderness.

No landscaping or regulations can reproduce the feeling that is known to all who have travelled the Overland Track when, having walked for two or three days from the last road, one is still no closer to the next. That feeling comes from remoteness. With roads, vehicles and logging no more than 300 metres from the boundary of the central Reserve, that feeling would be shattered.

The Wilderness Society believes that if it makes a stand now, when it concerns Australia's most famous National Park, the woodchippers, miners and dammers will think again. And they consider that this campaign is winnable: the logging is economically marginal. The area is so steep that only 40% of it can be logged.

The upper Forth is part of APPM's 'concession area'. This means that APPM has exclusive rights to the area's woodchip and pulp material (trees). APPM's concession covers 53% of Tasmania's State Forests and this forest, known as the Lemonthyme, is only a tiny

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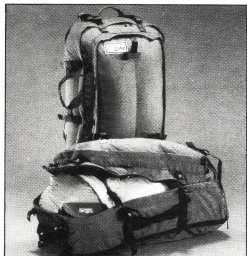
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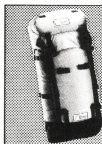
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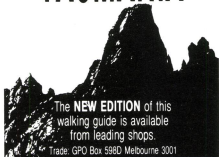
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fraction of that concession. Another company involved is Gunns Mill, a Tasmanian saw-logging company, which has been forced into remote areas by the woodchippers' concession system. The Wilderness Society is currently preparing an alternative logging programme for Gunns.

The Wilderness Society asks *Wild* readers to write to APPM, 360 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 or phone its General Manager, (03) 60 0741, to express their fears for one of Australia's most famous outdoor recreational areas. It also suggests writing to newspapers on the subject and keeping in touch with the Wilderness Society concerning this campaign.
Geoff Law

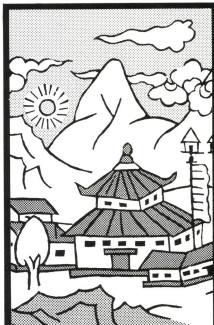
• **Canoeing.** SA *Canoeing* 83 is a 30-page journal that surveys the activities of paddlers in South Australia. Though not a lavish production, it features a range of articles on sea canoeing, surf kayaking and inland touring. Copies are available from the Recreational Canoeing Association, PO Box 320, Brighton, South Australia 5034.
Quentin Chester

• **Outdoor Education Conference.** 'Educating for the Environment' is the theme of the Fourth National Outdoor Education Conference, to be held in Adelaide 12-19 May. Field studies into areas such as the Coorong and the Flinders Ranges will play a vital role in considering how educators encourage 'environmental literacy'. Keynote speakers are expected to include Bob Brown and Peter Hillary. For further details on this National Conference write to The Orphanage, 181 Goodwood Road, Millswood, South Australia 5034.
QC

• **Flinders Mining.** The activities of mining companies in the Flinders Ranges have come under the scrutiny of conservation groups during the past year. Cabinet approval for mineral exploration in the area of the western Heysen Range, within National Park boundaries, has caused serious concern. The lack of consultation with the public, and the environmental consequences of this decision, have prompted the formation of a Flinders Ranges Action Committee. Its address is 310 Angus Street, Adelaide, South Australia 5000.
QC

• **Flinders Ranges Ridge-Top Walk, 1983.** The walk commenced at the recognized beginning of the Flinders Ranges — Bowman Park, Crystal Brook and finished at Mt Hopeless. The time taken was 70 days. Steve Tremont and Barry Higgins completed the total distance whilst John Davis walked half-way, from Crystal Brook to Wilpena Pound Gap. One month before commencing the trip, Steve and Barry deposited 23 food and water dumps.

The Flinders Ranges are a series of ranges, thus the choice of the skyline route was more difficult than if it had been a single range. The final decision was to traverse the following: Bowman Park ridge to Hughes Gap, the Bluff Range, Baroota Knob, Black Range, the Battery, Horrocks Pass, Mt Brown, Devils Peak, Pichi Richi Pass, Saltia Hill, Dutchmans Stern Range, Eyres Depot, Mt Arden Range, Wyacca Bluff, 'Partacoona' Range, Yappala Range, Mern Merna Hill, Elder Range, Wilpena Pound Range (complete circuit), Heysen Range, Mt Elkington, Patawarta Hill, Mt Tilley, Mt Hack, the Cocks Comb, Mt Andre, Mt Uro, Campbell Bald Hill Range, Constitution Hill, Mt Rowe, Gammon Plateau, Blue Range, Mts Lee and Pitts,



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Warren Bonython was the first person to walk the complete Flinders Ranges from Crystal Brook to Mt Hopeless. His was principally a low-level route, which he did in nine stages, commencing on 15 May 1967 and completing his odyssey on 4 March 1968 (see his book *Walking the Flinders Ranges*). Others were enthused by his walk and at least one party followed but no details are known.

• **Cocklebidy.** A French team recently claimed a world record for a dive through water-filled Cocklebidy Cave under the Nullarbor Plain, Western Australia. They are reported to have claimed to have probed it to the end, six kilometres in, during a 46-hour dive. Convinced that there is still much more cave to be discovered, Adelaide cave diver Ron Allum is leading an Australian team in a dive to further extend Cocklebidy's known limits.

• **Darrans Developments.** In late July, Bill Denz and Kim Logan climbed the long-outstanding winter problem, the South Face of Sabre, in this rugged New Zealand mountain area. The route was called Hongis Track (grade 6+) and took 12 hours (plus three days to get off the mountain). Logan went on to do another significant climb — the first winter ascent of the South Face of Marlon (Tiki Tour, grade 5). Local pundits are predicting Logan as being a man to watch.

• **More Iron Men.** The Salomon Iron Man event is to be held in New Zealand's Mt Hutt region on 22 October. The event involves skiing, running and kayaking.

• **Himalayan News.** The outstanding success for Australians in 1983 was the ascent, on 8 October, of Annapurna II (7,937 metres) by Tim Macartney-Snape, Lincoln Hall, Andrew Henderson and Greg Mortimer who climbed a major new route on the South Face. This is the highest summit reached by Australians. Two of the party narrowly escaped death in separate rockfall and avalanche incidents. This is essentially the team forming the First Australian Mt Everest Expedition, to tackle the peak from Tibet in 1984. We will keep readers informed of the progress of this most significant expedition.

Greg Child was the only Australian on a strong, mainly British, expedition to the Karokoram area in the western Himalayas. With Doug Scott and Pete Thexton he did the first ascent of Lobsang Spire by an excellent, multi-day climb requiring hammock bivouacs on a granite wall. He also was in a party which did the first ascent of Peak 5,561. The party then turned its attention to a series of alpine-style ascents of the nearby giant, Broad Peak. Child and his partner, Thexton, got to the low-angled summit ridge at a height of over 8,000 metres. Here Child was beset with hallucinations and Thexton developed pulmonary oedema. With the summit within reach, they were forced to descend and 'I am not exaggerating when I tell you that what ensued was a nightmare and literal struggle for life' (Child). Thexton's condition deteriorated seriously, and Child had to lower, drag and carry him until 2 am when they reached a tent at 7,600 metres in a terrible blizzard after 22 hours of extreme effort. Thexton died at 5 am despite efforts to revive him with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and cardiac massage.

A strong four-man New Zealand team led by Everest summiteer Nick Banks is to attempt an alpine-style ascent of the North Face of the

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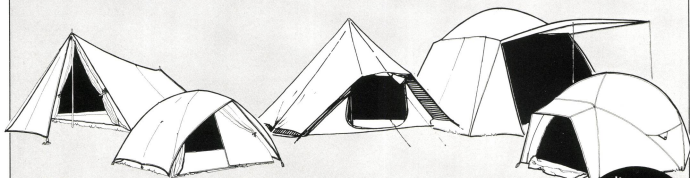
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(8,595 metres) in 1984.

An enterprising group of Adelaide climbers
has produced a journal documenting their 1982
climbing season in India's Kulu area. The
ascent of several peaks around the Bara Shigri
Glacier was full of incident and interest. This
is a very creditable publication not only for the
detailed information it contains but also for the
good example of a small, 'no frills' expedition
by a group of friends.

● **Indian Mountaineering Foundation Silver
Jubilee.** This was held in Delhi, India on 26-29
August and attended by 500 delegates from all
over the world, including a number from
Australia. The theme was tourism, and guest
speakers spoke on this, conservation,
mountaineering and medical aspects.

The explosion of interest in the so-called
'adventure sports' in the Indian Himalayas is
encouraged by the Indian Government and
their national airline but they have not
neglected conservation. Such moves as closing
the Nanda Devi Sanctuary for five years and
banning camping in the Valley of the Flowers
augur well for the future.

After the meet, a party of foreign delegates
trekked to the Gangotri region to support Chris
Bonington's team in an attempt on the
impressive wall of Khedard Dome.

Warwick Deacock

● **Climbing Successes.** In Europe, Jon Muir
has done unroped solo ascents (the first by an
Australian) of two of the six famous north faces:
the Piz Badile in 2 hours 6 minutes (possibly
the fastest ascent) and the Matterhorn in 7
hours 30 minutes. These were outstanding
achievements by this young New South Wales
climber who has soloed grade 24 rockclimbs
at Mt Arapiles!

The Sams brothers, Richard and Milton (see
his article in *Wild* no 5), and Ray Shorrocks had
a very successful six-month visit to Argentina,
Chile, Bolivia and Peru where they climbed
many peaks including Aconcagua (6,960
metres), Huascaran Norte and Tqiljaraju.

● **World Championships.** The Australian
slalom and wild water teams competed in the
World Championships at Merano, Italy in June
1983. Several commendable performances
were recorded — Glenn Gaynor and Tim Doyle
were less than a minute behind the first place-
getters in men's K1 and C1 events.

There were two firsts for Australia in slalom
events: Vivienne Golding gained a Division 2
start group listing, and John Felton and Andrew
Wilson gained a Division 3 group listing in the
women's K1 and men's C2 respectively. John
and Andrew's result placed Australia in Division
3 for the first time ever for slalom. (Wild water
achieved this status in 1981.)

Robert Delderfield performed well in the
men's K1 slalom, and the team of John Males
and Lindsay Binning cleared the course in their
second team run but competition was such
that, even so, they were placed ninth.

If the results are compared with those of the
previous team, the wild water team did not
perform as well as in 1981, but the slalom team
improved greatly.

Adele Meier

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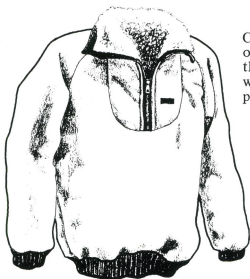
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Getting Started

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● WE ARE A FAMILY OF FOUR, THE CHILDREN Simon and James are 11 and 13 years old and we recently completed a 300 kilometre walk in South-west Tasmania. The main problem in organizing a long strenuous walk is being able to carry enough provisions. We based our calculations on a maximum carry weight of one quarter of our body weight. This meant, for example, that Simon could carry 11 kilograms. What a pity we don't have overweight children. Neither have a gram of fat but both have adult appetites!

Our walk was almost circular, starting at Cockle Creek on the South Coast Track and ending at Farmhouse Creek, the exit point of the Moss Ridge route to Federation Peak. We could not carry enough provisions for 29 days so divided the trip into three sections, two of nine days and one of 11. We walked a food drop in to Junction Creek and had another flown in to Melaleuca.

Many people we met were surprised that we were taking nine days to walk the South Coast Track. We had difficulty explaining that we were on holiday and not walking to set a record. We were also interested in doing some side trips. Our actual walking times compared favourably with those detailed in *South West Tasmania* by John Chapman, a book which we found most

useful although a little brief in sections. After completing the South Coast Track with, of course, a storm on top of the Ironbouds, we headed north on the Port Davey Track. We left the track at Crossing River and headed up into the Western Arthurs for a pleasant three days, the views marred only by the Hydro-Electric Commission mess at Lake Pedder. We descended Moraine E to Junction Creek and picked up our food drop for the final section. This we had buried nearly three weeks before and all the food was in perfect condition. This final section proved difficult with bad weather most of the time. However we reached Federation Peak via the Eastern Arthurs with a three-night bivouac in a cave at Stuart Saddle. The Southern Traverse of Federation Peak was a nightmare in a thunderstorm, the descent to the lower Bechervaise Plateau very difficult in almost zero visibility and Moss Ridge very interesting. A day's fine weather would have been most welcome but this didn't eventuate and the route from Judds Cavern strained family relationships.

What we required for the walk were meals that were light, filling, nutritious, balanced and, hopefully, interesting. Our longest section was 11 days, which meant that we could allow just over two-and-a-half kilograms of food a day and not be carrying overweight packs. Assuming identical appetites, which we did, this gave us 600-700 grams of food per person per day. We

Jane, Simon and James Thompson descending from the Western Arthurs, Tasmania. Bill Thompson



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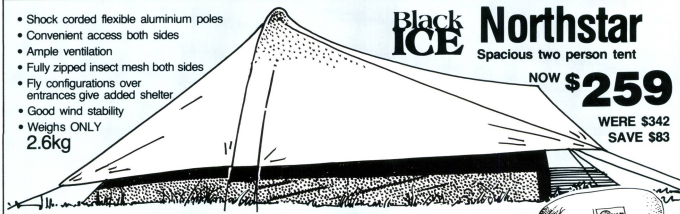
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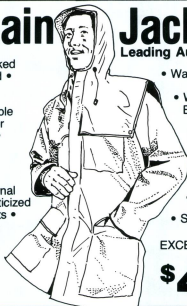
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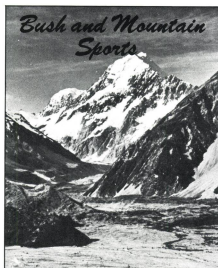
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achieved this easily, satisfying the above objectives by eating a mainly vegetarian diet and using many home-dried ingredients. We used no tinned food or freeze-dried meals. No food was lost through deterioration during the trip.

Each day's food was contained in a strong plastic bag and marked Day 1, Day 2 etc. The various day's items such as muesli, omelette, biscuits, soya meat mince, spices and spaghetti were packed in smaller plastic bags. Each evening the next day's food was opened so that some ingredients could be soaked. These included seeds for sprouting and various legumes. A few items such as milk, tea, cheese, sugar and Milo were carried in a large general bag. The food was divided between three packs, the fourth being used for all items such as fuel that might contaminate the food.

For ease of management, breakfast and lunch were fairly standard with little variation. Variation was achieved for the evening meal by using seven basic proteins with different combinations of carbohydrates and vegetables. The weights that follow are expressed in grams and are the dried amounts for four people.

Breakfast
home made fortified muesli (recipe follows) 400 g
or rolled oats with soya grits 300 g
tea, milk and sugar (day's supply) 200 g
omelette with soya flour 150 g
twice-smoked bacon 50 g

Morning Tea
One-third nuts or seeds combined with three types of fruit. These included macadamia, pecan, peanuts, sunflower and pumpkin seeds, dried bananas, natural sultanas, figs, dates, raisins, peaches and apples 250 g

Lunch
cheese or salami 250 g
alfalfa, mung or lentil sprouts 50 g
damper or wholemeal biscuits 250 g
On rest days we had —
soup with sprouts 100 g
pancakes with nutritious filling 400 g

Dinner
All meals consisted of —
protein 200 g
carbohydrate 250-350 g
dried vegetables 100 g
flavouring, spices, minerals 50-100 g

For protein we used soya meat chunks, navy beans, kidney beans, chick peas, lentils, dried seafood, split peas and salami. Carbohydrates included brown rice, wholemeal spaghetti, mashed potato, wholemeal macaroni, soyaroni, dumplings, barley or pastry. Dried vegetables included peas, onions, capsicum, olives, mixed, beetroot, tomato puree and seaweed.

Spices were mainly home grown and dried. These included many curry spices such as chilli, ginger, turmeric, dried garlic, curry leaves, cloves, cumin and coriander. Also used were lemon thyme, summer savoury, thyme, basil, sage, three in one, rosemary and marjoram. We carried extra dried chillis as there is nothing that comes near them for making mashed potato tastier, warming the spirit and keeping bodily functions regular.

Meals included, for example, soya meat chunks with curry spices, dried garlic, onion, chilli, ginger, curry leaves, turmeric and kelp served with rice and peas, and chick peas with onion, garlic, celery seed, chicken soup and parsley served with herby Yorkshire pudding, peas and mashed potato.

Although many meals contained many ingredients, we managed well with three billies and one small mess-kit frypan. The secret to rapid cooking, which is especially important if using a fuel stove, is soaking. This can be done

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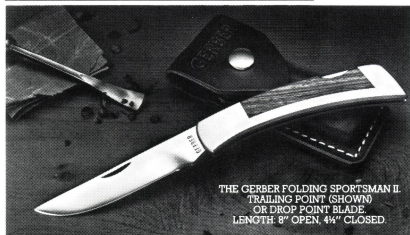
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*Doug Fife (leading) and Craig
Nattie on Fringe Dweller 22,
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overnight in a plastic ice-cream container and then transferred to a plastic bag for the day's walk. For items like beans which require a lot of cooking, after soaking bring to the boil the next morning, cover the billy with an old sock and cook on the move. Only reheating is necessary. In preparing meals, the large billy was used for carbohydrates, the medium one for protein and flavouring and the small billy for vegetables and cups of tea.

We thought that it was important to have as much fresh food as possible. The only fresh food we found along the way were bracken tips and one good meal of stinging nettles. Christmas dinner was supplemented by fresh mussels from Bathurst Harbour. Jane kept stopping and licking button grass flowers for their pollen!

Every second day we started growing a new batch of sprouts. These grew much better than we expected and the alfalfa was exceptional, growing far better than in Queensland. Mung beans were the least successful and fenugreek, which grew well, was not popular with the children. Sprouts were washed twice a day and given air and light to make chlorophyll.

For extra nutrition, soya flour, kelp and yeast were added to all wholesome flour products, and soya grit to rolled oats and rice. The muesli contained all other supplements necessary for fitness and health.

To obtain more usable protein for a given weight, two different protein products were combined. Examples were legumes with grains and seeds or grains with dairy products. Readers interested in this subject can obtain more information in *Diet for a Small Planet* by Frances Lappe.

We carried two kilograms of emergency food which required little or no cooking. This included muesli with milk and sugar, yeast, spirulina, dried fruit, carob chocolate, barley sugar, honey, chilli, total vitamin B and soya meat. We used some of these on top of the Ironbouds, in a ferocious storm on Goon Moor near Federation Peak and on the Southern Traverse of Federation Peak in yet another thunderstorm. While tent-bound on the Western Arthurs we were served Zinger tea, which proved very refreshing, and taught to play Zilch, an exciting six-dice game, by a 'crazy' Yank.

In summary, our diet proved very successful. At no time did we lack energy and had no sores or swollen joints. We had a craving for fresh fruit at the end, which would seem natural after one month's walk, especially as we live on a fruit farm, and a craving for cream suggests that our diet might have been lacking in fats. A family walk in South-west Tasmania is thoroughly recommended. ●

Recipe for Muesli — approximately 20 servings

rolled oats	350 g
All-bran	350 g
bran and wheat germ	250 g
toasted muesli	350 g
desiccated coconut	250 g
buckwheat	150 g
millet flour	150 g
dolomite	50 g
pumpkin seed	100 g
sunflower seed	100 g
agar agar	25 g
yeast (torula or flake)	100 g
kelp	25 g
cinnamon	1 heaped tablespoon
ground nutmeg	1 heaped tablespoon
Vitamin C	5 teaspoons
Seeds and dried fruit can be added unless eaten as a track snack.	



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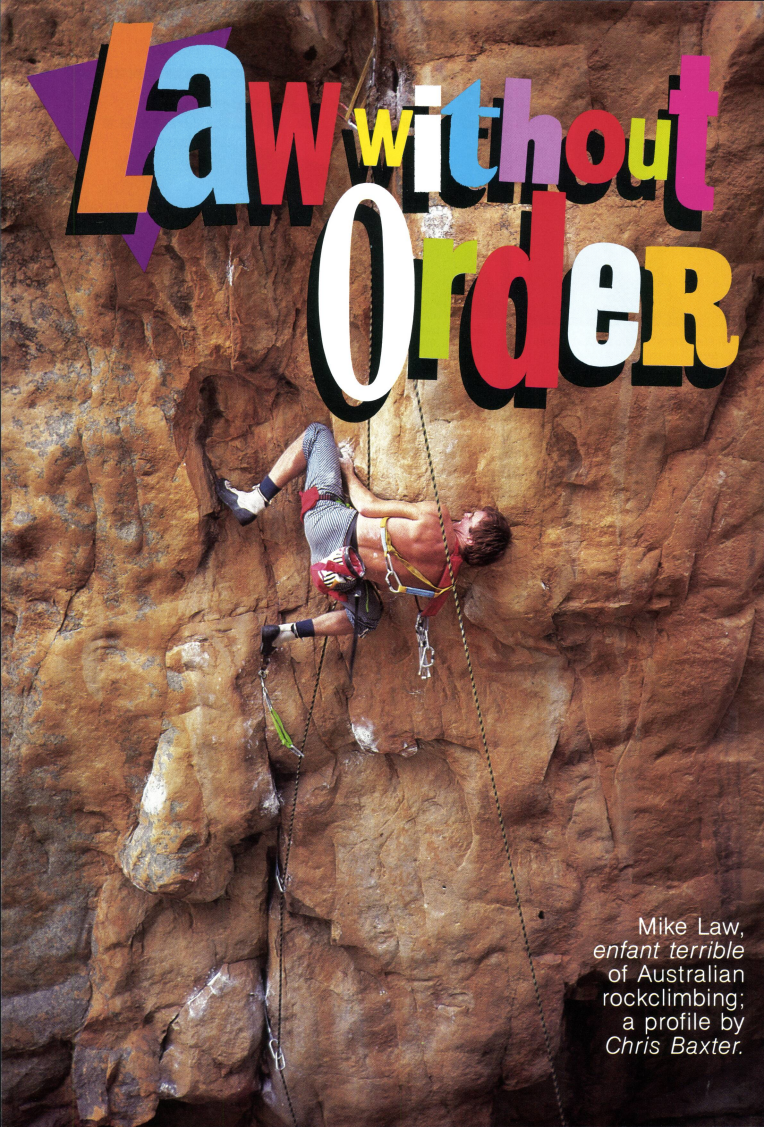
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Law without Order

A man is rock climbing a vertical rock face. He is wearing a red and white striped shirt, grey shorts, and a red climbing harness. He is secured by a rope and a belay device. The rock face is a mix of brown and tan colors with some white patches. The title 'Law without Order' is overlaid on the top half of the image in a large, colorful, stylized font. The word 'Law' is in orange, 'without' is in blue, and 'Order' is in white with a black outline. The letters are of varying sizes and are slightly tilted.

Mike Law,
enfant terrible
of Australian
rockclimbing;
a profile by
Chris Baxter.

● I FIRST BECAME AWARE OF THE LITTLE blighter's existence during an ill-fated, for me at least, interstate climbing meet in New South Wales' Blue Mountains in 1973.

Some fellow-Victorians and I were making unusually heavy weather of a well-known climb when, to our horror, a gaggle of noisy schoolboys materialized as our efforts reached their nadir. Their, apparently self-appointed, leader immediately caught our glaring eyes. Between a shock of orange hair and a pair of green-painted school shoes stood an insubstantial fellow in short pants. Without further ceremony he scrambled, unroped, up and down the offending piece of rock, chirping all the way, to 'show us how to do it'.

That was enough for us. We coiled our ropes, stowed our gear and sullenly headed for home.

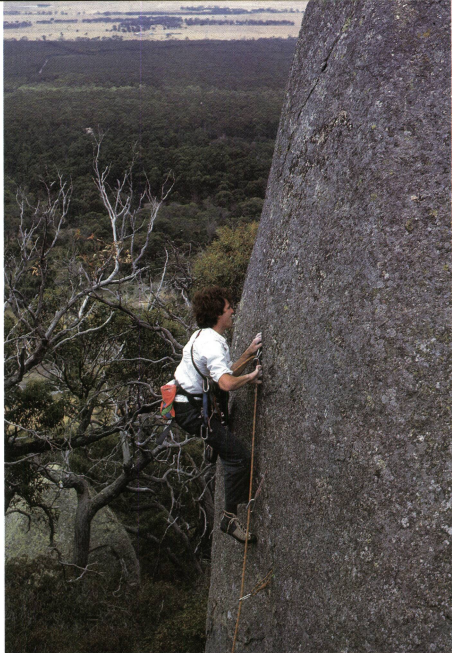
The name Mike Law meant nothing to me. Ewbank may no longer have been king, but those were the days when Australian climbing's New Wave of the late 1970s was not even dreamt of. His name was unknown to other climbers also, but it was not long before the climbing grapevine began to blossom with stories of remarkable feats on rock by a mere schoolboy. Then, seeking fame if not fortune, he turned up at the Mecca of Australian climbing, Mt Arapiles in western Victoria. There he managed to swarm up the start of a route previously climbed only with the aid of a long sling, a 'last great problem' of the day. This first free ascent of Kingdom Come on his sixteenth birthday made Mike Law, or 'Claw' as he soon became known, a 'household name' at climbers' camp firesides across the country.

Once born, the legend was well nourished by exaggeration and skilful innuendo. Claw worked particularly hard at appearing 'casual': casual about difficulty, casual about poor protection and the multitude of other things that make climbers' best intentions sag at the knees and their instructions to partners rise by octaves. And perhaps his trump card was the apparent nonchalance with which he accepted the slack-jawed reactions of his peers.

Among other things, Claw's slight build and few years have played their part in the creation of the legend. At least one friend has wryly observed: 'You've been 16 for over a decade now, Claw!'

The strategy of encouraging others to do the praising rather than having to blow the trumpet himself was a sound one. Within a short time, guidebook editors across the land lay in the palm of his chalky hand, describing his climbs as

Just what you've always wanted, Claw, pages of photos of you in action! Stretching lycra on the first ascent of Slope 'n' Steezin' (26), Mt Arapiles, Victoria. Robin Miller. Right, prancing up Eve (23) on the first free ascent, the You Yangs, Victoria. Baxter. Over, exiting into the lens (how else?) from The Fear (17) and, inset, camera-shy Claw on the first ascent of Dive, Dive, Dive (26), Bundaleer, Victoria. Baxter and, inset, Mark Moorhead



'hard, a Law route', 'another Law horror' and so on.

Claw's studied casualness perhaps found greatest expression in his climbing equipment and clothing. Before long it reached the level of eccentricity. His equipment would generally be regarded by other climbers as grossly inadequate. This inverted snobbery results in his often climbing with a scant collection of ancient equipment in varying states of decay. Much of it is of unknown history and origin, having been salvaged from climbs from which others have been incapable of recovering it. His ropes are frequently nicked and furry and rarely the usual weight or length. More often than not, his boots, considered the essential by most climbers, are sizes too large and have gaping holes or flapping soles. He has won a bet for leading an unusually delicate grade 24 climb in street shoes. He often leads grade 21 or harder in sandshoes.

Now in his mid-twenties, Claw has, for most of his life, successfully avoided the pressures of formal education and work. Not only has this enabled him to refine his climbing but to pursue a number of other

interests including 'designing' and sewing his own clothing and climbing softwear, such as harnesses and chalk bags. This interest has intermittently flourished into a most successful non-business enterprise known to climbers far and wide as Dirty Bros, Inc. Chouinard, Cardin and their ilk are hardly likely to suicide under pressure from this competition. Money, certainly not at full price, rarely changes hands in the acquisition of Dirty Bros products. Rather, they are usually simply given away or exchanged for some small favour seldom received. Their hallmarks are scraps of unusual and outrageous fabrics, asymmetrical 'design' and epileptic stitching. Specialities include leopard-skin lycra tights (a firm favourite with young legal men, the author is told), chalk bags made from wine cask linings and harnesses with leg loops resembling loops of over-stuffed sausage. For a recent overseas trip a chalk bag was made for him from an inverted souvenir koala bear with its stuffing removed!

Claw's own attire swings between the extremes of bursting lycra tights and baggy army disposal trousers, frequently co-ordinated with the upper half of a



The Fear

• ANOTHER NIGHT SHIFT AT THE HOSPITAL, whole evenings of nonsense, flashes of luminous wit and clarity from inmates in this asylum make a change from the meanderings of more senior staff. Home by dawn and three hours sleep before Gary's noise arrives, breaking like a wave before his bike. I get about like a strange committee before I get it all together, breakfast and bike.

Odd things happen to the mind on motorbikes. This effect only increases with speed, and lanesplitting/trafficdive on the way to North Head mixes it unevenly with lack of sleep. Definitely awake by now. In comparison, anything the sea cliffs could offer seems, if not tame, at least stationary.

Heading for the big one, a grooved and overhung arete on the area of cliff below the lookout, situated between beauty and horror. Wonderful architecture, roofing country casually transferring its stresses and problems through a network of overlaps to a wall below. On the right Lyle pushed, belayed and photographed me up The Bolt Ladder (20), classic and mildly horrifying. To the left Greg Child and I straggled up Honour Thy Father (22). I got all run out on the first pitch (technical too) and Greg moved horizontally skywards under the big roof; technical, terrifying and safe.

Between these two 'experiences' was one more line. Greg and I decided it might even be possible, but Greg went and got himself all US. I forgot about it again and again. One expedition to look at it got diverted and we ended up playing Scrabble (19). Another ill-defined attempt slid sideways off the bulge at six metres and we did The Bolt Ladder again. Whilst on that I saw a few bolts and a retreat sling half-way up the line.

So the first pitch is casual: ramble up The Bolt Ladder for ten metres and move left into an obvious V-corner. The hard move to get established in it is protected by a few old aid bolts, bridging past avalanches of sleepy Bogong moths up to a ledge; about grade 16, all very nice, all very safe. The aid attempt got two bolts further up the wall but the real line is out left, definite borderline 29 country. Out on the arete I build a little belay with nuts, but then place a bunch of bolts to avoid that sinking feeling (as though being dragged into surf by some ghastly osmosis). Rock hangs suspended above and all about like a wave about to break, all foam and honeycombs.

One hard move to rest, drill a bolt below an apparently blank wall. Gary wants to know just what I intend doing. My thoughts are all of retreat; if the 45° wall is not enuff, a four metre roof looms above. One gesture to legitimize my retreat: I reach up and flap my hand about vaguely. It encounters a jug and I pull up on it before good sense pulls me back; another blind reach, another jug. When I am a scared and unwilling participant I climb like a chess player (very slowly) and over-protect shamelessly.

The resulting rope-drag makes me even slower. The wind has turned quite bitter and Gary is a blue cold belaying unit. Squatting down on the lip of the roof, sweeping rock into space, six metres above and ten metres out from the belay. Blind

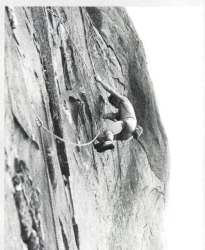
reaches, each filled with fear, each about grade 15. I'm sure each will be my last.

Exposure and the sea calling for my ankles from 60 metres below. Pull round on to the final wall, at least impossible, the last three metres curl over in space like a smooth wave, holds just keep appearing. One last mantle and this is it. We call it The Fear. •

Dive Dive Dive

• CLIMBING AGAIN. THERE IS A POINT WHERE THE benefits of a rest are outweighed by psychological disadvantages. Though not losing strength one is becoming 'weaker' by the minute. The next moves look more drastic and the wall above appears steeper with each glance. My last runners zoom off to the left and the ground drops away at a great rate. At least it isn't one of those C-type rests, one that you leave only when there is no rest left to leave. I'll just suck oxygen for another minute and go.

Oh yes, I'm hanging out on this excellent smooth wall at Bundaleer, a fine little cliff in the Grampians. The wall is quite fascinating, but if it was even a touch blanker it probably would be boring (that is, impossible). So here I am actually



trying to climb the silly thing, this is my third attempt. The move above is typical of the route, I hate doing it and it's great. I just know I'm going to fall off it and never have. Pinch a rib and swing up, sort of falling with a largely upward component then grab a hole. Shut your eyes and do the crux again. A dreamy well-remembered sequence like a sleepy sexual routine or the shape of a song. This is the fifth or sixth time I've done it now and it's best not to think about it too clearly.

Awake from that wee day-dream, at the end of crux, three finger-pockets and one thumb-pocket ('bowling ball') and face that move again. These days with B-and-B-mentality (bolts and bouldering) the crux of a climb is rarely the hardest bit; in this case it's some five metres above the last bolt runner. We grade-25 bumbles are all the same.



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woman's dress, a coat of the most kitch variety or a home-made Jackson Pollock T-shirt of his own design. Naturally his hair is regularly hennaed into a flaming spectacle. His strange fused eyebrows and penetrating eyes complete what, to the uninitiated at least, is an alarming picture.

The mark of contemporary music's New Wave on climbing is unmistakable. The local 'punk rock' scene is no less affected than that overseas. For some years Claw has been at the forefront of Australian climbing's New Wave. Not only is the New Wave subculture reflected in its members' appearance and musical taste but also in wholesale slaughter of long-hallowed sacred cows. Irreverence is its *raison d'être*. And in Australian climbing no-one is more irreverent than Mike Law.

A rare combination of unusually high intelligence, calmness — even courage — under great pressure, and practical common sense, not to mention an irrepressible sense of adventure and an uncommonly high power-to-weight ratio,

'You've been 16 for over a decade now, Claw!'

have meant that if anyone was equipped to tackle the sacred cows of climbing it was he. The 'climber's climber', Claw's name has become synonymous with bold, sparsely-protected climbing. Rock previously unthinkable for climbing because of its soft texture, jutting roofs or lack of cracks offering protection and holds are trade marks of many of his hundreds of first ascents throughout south-eastern Australia. His climbs Bladderfest at Bombo Quarry and Space Junk in the Blue Mountains, Rent-a-Doddle near Melbourne, Dive, Dive, Dive in Victoria's Grampians and Slope 'n' Sleazin' at Mt Arapiles, are all unrepeatable and among the hardest in this country. Characteristically, all are 'modestly' graded 'only' 25 or 26 when it is unlikely that they are any easier than the few routes graded 28 or 29. He delights in making a mockery of the grading system for climbers.

For years the idea of climbing on the crumbly, overhanging cliffs around Sydney Harbour's notorious Heads had been unthinkable. But to Claw they were so obviously a place to climb. Far removed from the wilderness he despises with its honest sweat and clean air, he revelled in the chance 'to climb on the rubbish surrounding the city'. He revels, too, in the pure horror of the climbing there.

Developments of the calibre of his achievements on rock naturally require a high level of physical condition. He

continued from page 27

Mind you, I almost did it last time but climbed down and jumped off. Here we go again, feet up high. I can't stand on that! Feet down low, can't reach now, ummm. (Years of drinking and day-dreaming have convinced me of my genius; I normally let my body do the climbing and give it sugar cubes and alcohol later. When I actually have to think about a move the result is always the same.)

It takes me way too long to get into lunge mode; I should just go clear and be there. Instead I pull up high and shout 'I'm going to dyno, watch me... one, two, three (slump a bit lower), four, five, six — I'm really going, seven, eight, nine here I go. Only when all hope is gone do I fix a steely eye on the jug and really go. I only miss it by a mile and, well, falling is easy. When the lights stop flashing I've lost about 15 metres in altitude, there's a long melt mark on the rope and Russ has been lifted five metres in the air. Excellent!

Actually, the fall is the high point of the climb. Even Russ snapping off the only hold from the start doesn't cheer me up as much. To this end I name the climb (eventually) Dive, Dive, Dive, instead of Hot Air Rises (which suits me and the climb next door, Blimp, much better), or something really obscure.

Yes, even with the full complement of holds the start is bad enough. I must have done it 30 times and still can only 'get' it when I'm fresh. Then Russ removes the one vital, essential, only (etc) foothold and I just rupture myself fighting this little traverse, especially as I'm already highly pumped. The rope is running through the top runners way out right, and there's a nasty kidney-puncturing swing out into a tree with each failure. Somehow find some sequence and somehow fall across the

traverse late on this cold afternoon, 'get' the triple dyno to the brain (another one of those moves you only ever want to do twice) and then fingers freeze up totally on the first rest. Eventually I come down and thaw out my fingers, run on the spot and pick up a jumper (good for those long dynos). Swing back out and do the dynos again. At the rest I just dip into my thermal underwear and then the chalk bag and keep going through the 'easy' middle section. Waste only a minute on the second rest and get my fingers going again. Chalk up all exposed flesh and let my body go through the motions on the crux and that body that move again. This time my feet go somewhere strange and I've got the jug below the corner, no hands rest and a bolt runner. I'm almost sad that section is all over.

The corner is not without its little traumas (take a size five RP for the top) but it's all feasible or bridgeable, two face moves and clip into the belay. The wind is like ice-water, fast flowing and utterly clear. I can already feel it soaking through my clothes and trickling down my neck. I demand so much warmth that Russ has to second the pitch practically naked. What an unpleasant task seconding hard climbs is, the only sane response is to lead them. My thoughts on the second pitch have only got as far as 'oh, no, so we rap off into wind and swirling gloom, the white daisies of chalk are such a cute addition on the dark wall, step diagrams for a silly new dance. And it's all so steep, must do it again or get some photos of it.

What do I call it in the description? 'Probably the hardest and certainly the prettiest route in the Grampians.' 'Prettiest' is the key word; such an infatuation, as good as any set of eyes through cigarette haze. And so much healthier. ●

Michael Law

vigorously ridicules the clumsy training efforts of his peers but, rest assured, there is always a well-polished pull-up bar in some shadowy corner of his current abode — if you can push your way through the pieces of his beloved Ducati motorcycles littering the floor.

But his climbs and climbing are as unpredictable as Claw himself. As often as his routes are bold, unprotected and established in impeccable style, they are shamelessly prepared from above. Many bristle with unnecessary bolts and other unsightly ironmongery pounded into holes he has drilled in the rock. These are climbs for the masses, consumer climbs as he calls them, designed to save subsequent climbers the trouble of selecting and placing protective equipment in desperate situations. Equally common, however, are his climbs left so untouched that you can only wonder whether they have been climbed at all. Similarly, his climbing swings between displays of outrageous 'frigging' and jiggery-pokery and uninterrupted movement well out from protection.

The names of his routes reflect a bizarre and inventive character. Debutantes and Centipedes, Gay Olympix, We Don't Like Slopes and even Baxter Below the Belt.

Never one to allow a few facts to get in the way of a good story, Claw is infamous for his grotesque exaggerations. He works vigorously on the Law Legend and has become a skilled and most entertaining raconteur, with an acid wit.

You can be sure that his reputation is enhanced with every tale, and those of his rivals reduced to pin-cushions. But his

unabashed honesty and good humour ('He's so competitive that he makes me look like Mahatma Gandhi') make it difficult for even the most hardened rival in the fiercely competitive climbing world to dislike him. His generosity and friendship are legendary. He regularly enjoys climbing with people of every background and ability; his enthusiasm is inescapable.

An outrageous exhibitionist, even the most paltry crowd will see him showing off on the nearest piece of rock, usually bare-chested and unroped. One female spectator is sufficient encouragement to put on the most remarkable display of 'rock strutting'. In fact, romance is one of the many aspects of life that Claw has successfully mixed with rock. A reputed master of cliff-top seduction, he specializes, it is said, in offering glibbie young ladies moonlight ascents of Tiptoe Ridge, a grade 2 Mt Arapiles classic.

Claw's unconventional writing has, for some years, had an enthusiastic following of readers of rockclimbing journals. If you are a scholar of English grammar it may not be your cup of tea, but he is sought after by the underground climbing press as a writer of humorous forewords to guidebooks and calendars under titles such as 'High Fashion' and 'The Joy of Flight'.

Free spirit or lost soul? No stranger to hardship and tragedy, Claw frequently parodies himself with jibes like 'it can only end in tears'. It can't be easy being that different but I can think of no Australian climber who would be more missed were he to stray too far from the perilously thin line he has chosen to follow. ●

SNOWY MOUNTAIN DAYS

Exploration of highest Australia by foot and ski, from earliest times to the 1950s, by local historian *Klaus Hueneker*.



● ONE MESSAGE OF HISTORY IS THAT 'there is nothing new under the sun, especially the high country sun' and that goes for intrepid skiers carving up the western faces, for tiger walkers (should I say runners) bagging Kosciusko and Jagungal in less than 12 hours or for ski tourers gliding from Kiandra to the Snowy River between office hours. It has all been done before, albeit not in quite the same style or with the same equipment or with quite the same self-possessed arrogance. Indeed, this potted history of bipedal exploration would suggest that by comparison to us, the earlier generations had far more pluck, greater courage and deeper faith in themselves.

Consider the aborigines, the first true, all-embracing bushwalkers of this continent who, largely unclad and with the simplest of artefacts, ranged from the fertile coast up to the highest peaks, from wettest rainforest to the driest desert. Their compass was the starry sky, their maps the traditions of the past, their sleeping bags a number of small fires and their food what grew around them. Just how long it took them to find the easiest fords, the lowest mountain passes or the juiciest Bogong moths is unknown, though we can be sure that they concentrated on the shortest and easiest routes.

By the time of the first explorers, like cocky Hamilton Hume, conservative William Hovell and controversial Paul Edmund Strzelecki, the routes were well established and, to a discerning eye, easy to follow. But in the rush to conquer, subdue and multiply, the more circuitous organic routes often fell into disuse. Those that were used, slowly evolved from foot pads to bridle paths to bullock tracks, and in no time became bush highways for miners, stockmen, storekeepers, early settlers and, naturally, a few desperados, affectionately known as bushrangers.

The gold-fever-smitten miners who flocked to Kiandra in 1860 became the second wave of bushwalkers and, unbeknown to them, the first Australian skiers. From Kiandra they fanned out into uncharted and undammed river gorges like those of the Tumut, the Snowy and the Eucumbene — whilst others charted new routes from the upper Murray to Kiandra via the Grey Mare Range, Jagungal and Happy Jacks Plain. Once known as Ligars Route, after a noted surveyor, it is now part of the much walked and skied Grey Mare Fire Trail.

The miners were the forerunners to the Depression-era swagmen and always carried a bedroll (a sheet of canvas and blankets), a billy and tea, some flour and bulky beef, perhaps some spuds and a chunk of cheese and the indispensable panning dish. Most shunned horses but quite a few were seen to wheel a wooden barrow filled with amazing paraphernalia

including a calico tent. Small clusters of tents, not unlike those of gregarious groups of bushwalkers or 'people of the little tents', sprang up in places as far south as the Crackenback River near Thredbo, as far west as the Toolong diggings below the Dargals as well as at the Nine Mile, the Fifteen Mile, the Four Mile and, lo and behold, the Eight Mile. Such naming of places after distances from a town — in this case Kiandra — is not uncommon in Australia.

A few miners of Scandinavian extraction brought skis, and in a cold,

Terrible, south of Thredbo (in 1834), Baron von Mueller classified hundreds of alpine plants (in the 1850s), Clement Wragge set up a weather station on Kosciusko's elephantine summit (in 1898) and Professor Edgeworth David set out to plumb the depth of Blue Lake from a collapsable canvas boat (in the 1900s). Nearly all of them were like present-day bushwalkers but in academic disguise, although with the same zest for untrammelled spaces.

One not quite as learned but of more artistic temperament was Charles Kerry,



bleak, snow-buffed township like Kiandra that was quite a blessing. Simple bent-up fence palings and multi-grooved 'butterpats' provided fun and entertainment on the grand slam and, more pertinently, enabled the mail and provisions to be brought in from Adaminaby and Tumut. Perhaps unwittingly, the skiing mailman of Kiandra became Australia's first ski tourer. In time, local people also used skis in searching for missing stockmen like the ill-fated Mick Shanley, or in rescuing half-buried cattle. Bill and Bob Hughes brought out several hundred head from the Nine Mile in the 1920s.

Until the turn of the century most exploration on foot, ski or horseback had one motive — to make a living either from sparkling minerals, lush summer pastures or straight alpine ash logs. The main exceptions were a handful of scientists seeking the highest peaks or searching for unnamed flora and fauna or trying to unravel the mysteries of glaciation. Edmund Strzelecki scaled the Main Range via Hannells Spur (in 1840), John Lhotsky climbed Mt William IV, or Mt

the Monaro-born, but Sydney-based, photographer. He had learnt to ski as a member of the very old Kiandra Snowshoe Club and in 1897, just before Wragge got there, led the first winter ascent of Kosciusko, from a base at Friday Flat near today's super-suave Thredbo. One now-legendary character, Scot McAllister, was purported to be the only one who skied the last 200 metres — up as well as down! This was quite a feat on unwaisted and uncumbered skis without solid bindings and with only one knobby stick for support. It was straight running all the way and snow ploughs or fancy telemarks were unheard of. McAllister is also credited with being in the first party of skiing miners to climb Jagungal (in 1898), and may have topped it all off by skiing from Kosciusko to Kiandra before the celebrated success of Herbert Schlink and others in 1927.

A ski crossing over this classic route, in either direction, had long been in the minds of early 'Main Range Rats' (not the below-the-floorboards variety) but it wasn't until the talents of Sydney and Kiandra joined forces that it became a success.

Tom and Elyne Mitchell, ski explorers of the 1930s. Right, brakes hard on — skiing at Kiandra in the 1890s. Huesenke and, right, (probably) Charles Kerry. This historic photo, and that on page 35, courtesy National Library of Australia.

In July 1927, Bill Hughes, the 24-year-old Kiandra whizz kid, led three Sydney doctors and another Monaro local, from the Alpine Hotel in Kiandra to the Kosciusko Hotel at Diggers Creek in two-and-a-half glorious days. The two evening stopovers were spent at Farm Ridge (now collapsed) and at Betts Camp. On the second day they covered over 40 kilometres and only needed Tin Hut to dump excess gear.

Betts Camp, where the water often 'lay in icy pools' and where blizzards baited 'frozen fools', became the base for attempts on the Mt Kosciusko summit record and for exploring the Main Range. For over 20 years it was the last and

and Alpine Hut, the Mitchells' treks up Hannel Spur and into the Dargals, Oliver Moriarty's lightning tours along the Grey Mare Range and, later still, Ted Winter's wanderings between Pretty Plain, Jagungal and Mawsons. But ski tracks were still few and far between and if you saw one pair you had seen them all.

The same was probably not so true for the Main Range where the Chalet attracted big crowds and opened up new possibilities. The most intrepid, like Elyne and Tom Mitchell, Curly Annabel, Colin Wyatt and George Day soon discovered the thrill and tingling excitement of skiing the steep western faces, those craggy slopes that tumble off Townsend, Watsons



highest outpost and none knew this better than Seaman and Hayes who perished near the summit in 1928. One had apparently climbed the last 200 metres on foot and the other on skis so that the descent took them in different directions.

The search for the missing men covered a large area, took a lot of time and involved many people. News even reached Bill and Bob Hughes working at the distant Elaine mine, about ten kilometres south of Kiandra. Entertaining a forlorn hope of intercepting Seaman and Hayes south of Tabletop, they donned skis and packs and set off in search. Finding no traces and almost perishing themselves, they turned back at Tin Hut and in one mammoth day skied and walked back to the Elaine.

'Fully 40 miles, skiing only ten, walking and carrying full equipment for the rest, in 12 hours, is a performance we do not wish to again attempt.' (Bill Hughes)

A month or so later, Seaman's frozen body was found in a sitting-waiting position below Etheridge Bluff. The ravaged body of Hayes remained concealed in the vicinity of Lake Cootapatamba for another 15 months.

By the 1930s, interest in long-distance touring reached new heights and led to greater use of the simple shelters built to house stockmen and gold miners. Noteworthy journeys included Ken Breakspear's forays between the Chalet

Crags and Twynam in precipitous and jumbled abandon and don't stop until arrested by the Geehi River about 1,500 metres below.

Elyne Mitchell in her old classic *Australia's Alps* (1946) poignantly captured the feeling of dropping into this hidden wilderness:

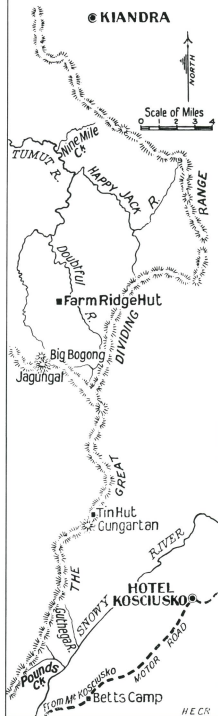
'The hanging valley floor suddenly began to melt below me and I realized that there was no nice flat landing-ground but a half snowed-over waterfall with a hole at the bottom, and the valley continuing beyond.'

and a little further on:

'Thousands of feet of snow slopes and crags rushed headlong into Geehi in really alpine glory. Here was something that no one believed existed in Australia: ice-foaming cliffs, steep rock faces and snow couloirs, and, in between the crags, the long ski slopes and gullies — many of them on which no ski had yet left its mark.'

Once discovered, Elyne and her friends were hooked, just like the present generation who hole up in tunnel tents and snow caves waiting for a magic day on 'the Crags'. Only instead of open parallels on old-style steel-edged hickories, they unzip gliding telemarks on half-buried skinny boards.

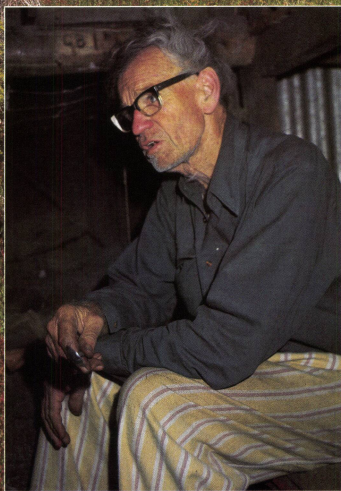
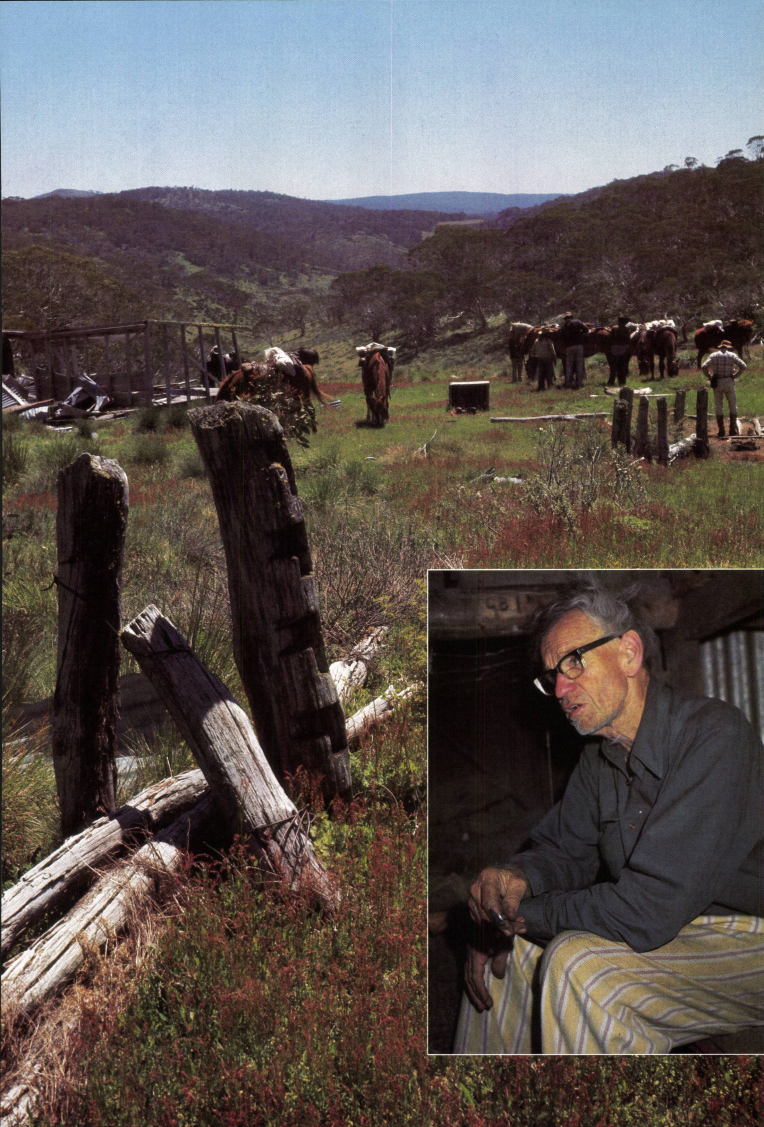
But winter and snow flakes are



transient and one must not neglect the primates who can't bear to feel the ground sliding away beneath them. Unfortunately this is not easy, for the records of early bushwalks are not nearly as profuse as of early ski tours. Then again, the walkers of the 1920s and 1930s may have been wooed by the saddle — the traditional form of mountain transport. There are certainly records of fishing parties riding down to Island Bend on the Snowy River, or exploratory parties riding from Kiandra to Kosciusko and back again, and of numerous riding parties trekking to the top of Kosciusko, but very few of bushwalkers.

One exceptional fellow, WR Gainford, combined three modes of transport by

Left, the first party to ski from Kiandra to Mt Kosciusko. Dr Herbert Schinke (left), Bill Hughes, Bill Gordon, Dr John Laidley and Dr Eric Fisher. Their route is also shown. Photo and map from *The Australian Ski Year Book*, 1928. Right, a modern photo of Farm Ridge Hut, where the 1927 party spent its first night. Inset, octogenarian bushwalker, Selby Alley. Hueneke





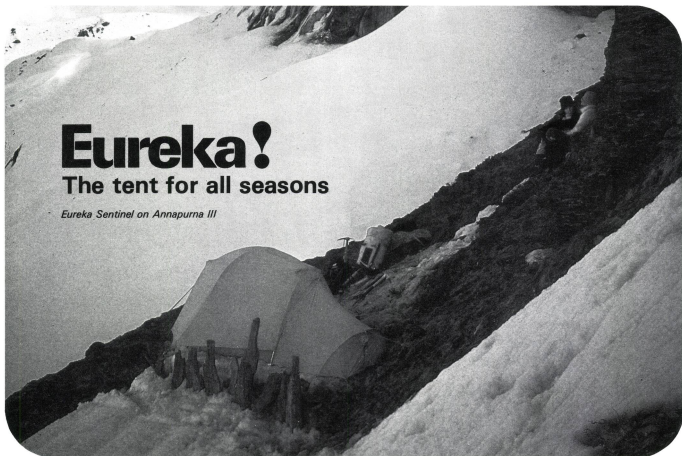
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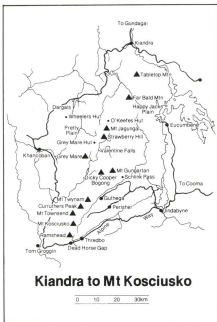
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using a horse, his feet and a bicycle to be the first cyclist on the roof of Australia, way back in 1898. In company with Eric Barling, he hired a guide in Jindabyne and took a day-and-a-half to reach the summit. Here they were greeted by residents of Wragge's observatory who, being cyclists themselves, 'enjoyed the novelty of cycling on the snowy track'. That evening they camped on Merritts Spur and the next day scrub-bashed down to Friday Flat and followed the Crackenback back to Jindabyne. Of the estimated 97 kilometres, he rode horseback on eight, managed to bicycle for 40 and presumably pushed the bicycle for the remainder.

Such determination and audacity is also evident in the activities of Miles Dunphy, the father of two controversy-

Balder Byles who in the face of a very entrenched, largely unmanaged system of high country grazing, recommended strict government controls that ultimately resulted in the gradual elimination of all stock from the high country. Balder would ride the stockmen's tracks with his packhorse on lead, pitch camp in suitable places and then explore the surroundings on foot. In this way he spent six solitary months in cathedrals of alpine ash,

spring cart with firewood. Then just as they were settling down to cook and eat, another four beanie-covered heads filed past the window. No one came in, and soon after a similar procession paraded by. With thoughts of Jesus, they can't all cram in here they were a little relieved when only one lot burst in. It had taken some time to find the door! With 16 bipeds it was almost standing room only but, as Selby said, 'We were a lot better off than



generating phenomena — wilderness and Milo — the first a concept way before its time and the second an exceptional being, the bane of all dyed-in-the-wool foresters and avaricious rutile miners. Miles and the National Parks and Primitive Areas Council were particularly active in the Pilot wilderness, and as far back as 1935 proposed a large Snowy-Indi Primitive Area that took no account of State boundaries but plenty of notice of natural, undisturbed ecosystems. The New South Wales component became part of the Kosciusko National Park in 1944. Milo, who was perambulated out to Kanangra Walls before he could walk or talk, has since then enjoyed this wilderness at least three times, each time missing Charles Carter, the legendary hermit of the Tin Mines, but that is another story...

Determination seems to be the hallmark of so many mountain personalities that one wonders whether it is innate or sub-consciously implanted by the romance, inspiration and magic of it all. A particularly zealous fellow was

'The coldest, wettest and windiest place in Australia' — Wragge's observatory in 1899.



amongst gnarled snow gums, on top of lichen-encrusted tors and among succulent sphagnum bogs. The latter, unfortunately, were drying up and being burnt out.

One way of getting at the truth of the past is by asking those who have been there. This can, with luck, take you back to the 1920s and 1930s and throw some light on whether or not the modern species of *Bushwalker Australiensis* had penetrated to this part of Australia. 'Yeah' said Lindsay Willis, 'we used to meet them at Mawsons (in the mid-1930s); we'd look out the window and see chaps walking and they would start off in shorts and they'd burn — they would be red raw — they would pull their pyjama trousers over their shorts and we'd wonder what's this coming — a mob of billy-goats or something. We used to show them in the mirror and they'd think what a wonderful thing this beard was!'

Another meeting of local lads and city slickers occurred in 1948 when Selby Alley, the lively octogenarian bushwalker from Newcastle, arrived at Mawsons with a group from Grey Mare. There were five stockmen there already and soon another three came in. All had sought shelter from a freak blizzard that left about 1,200 sheep marooned in the upper Valentine valley. At 4 pm, 12 increasingly cold and hungry men braved the elements and filled up the

the quadrupeds outside'. This included 11 shivering horses and 17 frozen dogs!

Selby kept a log of this journey which concluded:

'When the sun came out to a complete hemisphere of blue, I walked round the vast snowfield over towards the Brassy Mountains — the only stigmata on the smooth white body being the giant prints left by the hungry hares. Next day, we visited Whites River where a fellow named Claude donated an egg and I made fried scones de luxe... later on, the sleet was on again and failing to find Blue Lake I suffered one of my most bitter defeats in an attempt to get a fire going, near Hedley Tarn, to make some soup. We abandoned the idea of the summit, headed for the Hotel Kosciusko and, frowsy as we were, had a meal from the silver and monogrammed equipment. Then the bus to Cooma and the 7:15 pm train to Sydney with a sleeping bag in the corridor.'

In 1951 the plush hotel that had been the start or end of so many mountain crossings, as well as the place where bushwalkers spruced up to make the transition back to the city, was burnt down. It signalled the end of an era and the beginning of a new wave of high country appreciation. ●

MUSH!

Joss Haiblen recalls when dog sleds ranged the Snowy Mountains

● **FIRST SNOW OF THE SEASON:** THE DOGS are wild with excitement, barking and racing round the yard. The harness appears and they can scarcely be contained. 'Mush!' The snow flies from the big paws of the Samoyeds as they tear across the snow.

Another Yukon adventure? Perhaps Antarctica? No, the setting is as Australian as the dingo who leads the team.

were on skis. It was slow, hard work.

George began experimenting with blue healers as sled dogs. They were known as 'good pullers' by drovers who would hitch them to dray axles in a tough spot. When in 1933 the Government sent him to study Canadian ski resorts, he was impressed by the dog teams he saw in action.

Though not perfectly suited to the work

of pulling sleds in the snow, the rough team of cattle dogs was quite a novelty. Scandinavian and Austrian ski instructors ushered in a boom period in skiing and press photographers who came to capture the excitement always went away with photos of the dogs.

A newsagent in Randwick who bred Samoyeds wrote to the Chalet in 1940 after seeing the dogs in a Sydney paper. George rushed to Sydney and returned with three males and a female; total price 20 pounds.

The new team trained well with Flash in the lead. Commands borrowed from the drovers were 'come here' for left and 'gee off' for right. 'Mush' came from Canada. The dogs understood 'away there' as stand ready and 'sit' meant stop. A sturdy sled fashioned from steel conduit had lengths of iron rod welded under the runners for tracking, and paint under the upturns to lessen snow accumulation.

Clarrie Dunn, who fed and cared for the dogs, handled the summer training runs down to Smiggin Holes, riding behind the team in a four-wheeled trolley fitted with a brake. Once he became entangled in a chain and was dragged 300 metres over sharp quartz gravel before climbing back aboard the trolley. He spent three days recuperating at the Chalet.

By this time caterpillar tractors were handling most of the winter transportation.



In the late 1930s a dingo bounty hunter told George Day of six dingo pups he had seen in a hollow log. George rode across the mountains to the spot near Tom Groggin and returned with a pup he named Flash. Like many high country dingoes at that time, Flash was part Scotch collie. He was fast, intelligent and at home in the snow — the perfect leader.

The Chalet, built by the New South Wales Government Tourist Bureau in 1930, is Australia's highest ski resort. In the lee of Charlottes Pass in the Snowy Mountains, it receives a heavy, dependable fall of snow. When George Day took over the management in 1932, snow porters were bringing in the winter supplies. They pulled sleds made of old skis and cross-bars while they themselves

Clockwise from top left: 1 At Spencers Creek, Clarrie Dunn in trolley for summer run. Flash in the lead. 2 George Day on sled. Bruce Hoar is the second skier from the left. 3 and 4 A dog's life. All photos Clarrie Dunn collection



The ride however was much too rough for injured skiers and so the dogs were often used.

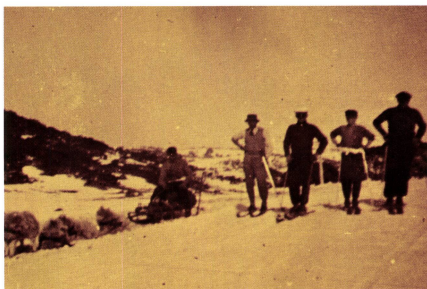
Clarrie recalls taking his brother Tom out by dog sled in 1941. Tom had fallen on a rock while spring skiing, breaking an arm and sustaining concussion. They met conventional road transport at Spencers Creek.

Later in the 1940s a Dr Bradshaw was evacuated haemorrhaging from a duodenal ulcer. Breeding had increased the team to eight, but for steadiness George used only four dogs, easing the sled carefully over the drifts. They met the ambulance, and Dr Bradshaw was soon receiving blood transfusions in Cooma. George still remembers the warm letter of gratitude.

Once the dogs pulled an aeroplane back from Carruthers Peak on the Main Range. Young Bob Arnott, a 'harum-scarum chap', was in training at the Narrandera Air Force Base when he decided to land a Tiger Moth on the flat top of Carruthers and ski over to the Chalet for a visit. The plane flipped over when it hit the icy corrugations of wind-drifted snow. The unhurt pilot made his

to the Snowy River. There the 275 kilogram engine was removed from the 200 kilogram body and the dogs made two trips up the slopes to Charlottes Pass and across to the Chalet.

Chalet staff on day-off trips as far as Mt Tate. The Ski Club of Australia organized races off Mt Townsend down to Lake Albina, and from Mt Twynam to the Snowy. The dogs would haul the food to the races



way to the Chalet, later to receive a most severe reprimand.

George and the dogs assisted in the salvage. First the plane was skidded down

The early skiers, unpampered by lifts, skied over the highest peaks of the Main Range much like the tourers of today. Bruce Hoad remembers joining other

and perhaps return with an injured competitor.

Fox Movie-Tone and Cinesound made promotional films for the Tourist Bureau during the 1940s. The dog sled took camera equipment to remote locations.

The Chalet closed during the war in the Pacific and the Days moved down to the Kosciuszko Hotel. Petrol and vehicles being scarce, George and the dogs logged 5,000 kilometres between 1942 and 1945 bringing mail and supplies up to the Chalet caretaker.

The Chalet re-opened after the War. The dogs had always been yarded when not in use in order to avoid depredations on the stock in the nearby summer 'snow leases'. Allowed to roam after the Days left in 1950, the dogs were shot by sheepmen or succumbed to illness. The new over-snow vehicles heralded the end of an era.

This little-known dog team moved both injured people and goods in a safe and efficient manner in the most bitter weather. Those who were involved credit the dogs with a major role in the early recreational activities of the Snowy Mountains Main Range area. ●

W H I T E



A canoe touring photo-essay by
Chris and Yvonne McLaughlin.

A tight bend, rocks to avoid
— a situation where good
support strokes are needed.

The C2 (Penetrator) gives an
exciting ride through standing
waves and turbulent water.

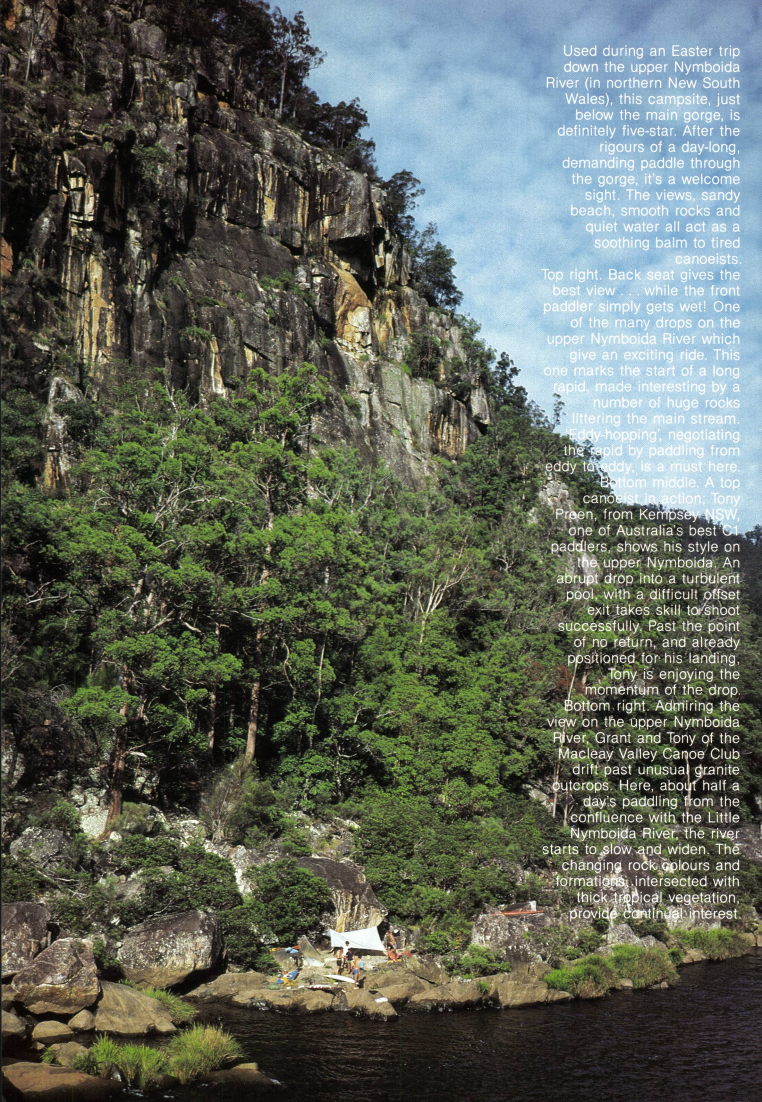
The Snowy River, in summer
is kind to canoeists, with
warm water and interesting
rapids. It's a good

opportunity to practise
different strokes and improve
technique. A capsize is
almost welcome! All

photographs from McLaughlin
Collection

W A T E R





Used during an Easter trip down the upper Nymboida River (in northern New South Wales), this campsite, just below the main gorge, is definitely five-star. After the rigours of a day-long, demanding paddle through the gorge, it's a welcome sight. The views, sandy beach, smooth rocks and quiet water all act as a soothing balm to tired canoeists.

Top right: Back seat gives the best view . . . while the front paddler simply gets wet! One

of the many drops on the upper Nymboida River which give an exciting ride. This one marks the start of a long rapid, made interesting by a number of huge rocks littering the main stream.

'Eddy-hopping', negotiating the rapid by paddling from eddy to eddy, is a must here.

Bottom middle: A top canoeist in action: Tony

Preen, from Kempsey NSW, one of Australia's best C1

paddlers, shows his style on

the upper Nymboida. An abrupt drop into a turbulent

pool, with a difficult offset exit takes skill to shoot

successfully. Past the point of no return, and already

positioned for his landing,

Tony is enjoying the momentum of the drop.

Bottom right: Admiring the view on the upper Nymboida

River, Grant and Tony of the Macleay Valley Canoe Club

drift past unusual granite outcrops. Here, about half a

day's paddling from the confluence with the Little

Nymboida River, the river starts to slow and widen. The

changing rock colours and formations, intersected with

thick tropical vegetation, provide continual interest.



The Army tries its hand at ski touring, by Jeff Williams.

● WAR POSES A MULTIPLICITY OF PROBLEMS and many an army has suffered the devastating effects of waging war in unfamiliar lands and in strange conditions. Russian soldiers fighting against the Finns in the Winter War of 1939-40 were

for operations in the Taurus mountains. Winter was approaching and this extensive range would soon be snow-covered. At that time there was also a fear that the Germans would attempt an invasion of Lebanon and Syria via these

champion. The remaining instructors included three Norwegians, a Swede, and a Swiss who had formerly managed the Mt Buller Chalet.

In early December 1941 three parties consisting of ten students from the Australian 9th Division, 60 from the 6th Division and 60 from the 7th Division, travelled to the Cedars near Beirut, Lebanon. The school was to occupy a hotel and barracks which were located above Bcharre in the Lebanon at 2,000 metres. Instruction was the same as taught at the Ski School at Kosciusko — the Arlberg system — as most of the instructors were familiar with that technique. As skiing was a comparatively new sport in Lebanon, the provision of good equipment posed a problem. The skis were without metal edges and were subject to wear on the icy snow. Initially it was hoped that students could be issued with skis suited for use with their locally-made boots, but this was not possible so the toe-irons had to be adjusted by hammering them to the required shape. The windproofs, which consisted of canvas trousers and cotton jacket with hood attached, were waterproofed in copper sulphate, leaving them pale green in colour. Ski sticks were of beech, with a leather top and hand-strap and aluminium ring and points. Waxes were produced locally at the school and were similar to those in use



severely handicapped by the weather. Yet to the Finnish commando in winter dress the white-cloaked forests were an ally. From such familiar sanctuaries the commandos — the Bielaja Smert ('White Death') — would swoop down upon the unsuspecting Russians then melt quickly back into the forests. Even though the Russians started to systematically train some of their troops in the art of ski warfare they discovered that skiing, especially as practised in war, was not to be learnt easily.

● In the period May-July 1941 Australian troops, as part of a larger British force, fought a bitter campaign against the pro-German Vichy French regime in Syria. After the Vichy government capitulated, the Australians were subjected to a long period of garrison service. Some discipline problems occurred during this time. Perhaps in an endeavour to find recreational activities for his men, General Thomas Blamey, who had skied in Australia, suggested to his British superior that ski troops should be trained

mountains, using heavy concentrations of ski troops.

There were a few accomplished ski tourers in Australian Corps headquarters at that time. One of them, Major RW Savage, a leading figure in the bushwalking fraternity back in Australia, was instructed to prepare plans for a ski school. When instructors were sought hundreds of soldiers applied but few had suitable qualifications. Two of the applicants even claimed to have skied up the Murray valley in areas where snow had never fallen! Major Savage proposed that well-known skiers serving in the army, such as Captain Tom Mitchell (then in Malaya) and Sergeant Jack Thomas, be flown to Syria. When this proposal failed, he obtained from the British Army Major James Riddell, who had skied for Britain at the Olympic Games of 1936. Other prominent instructors were Sergeant John Abbot-Smith, previously an instructor at Kosciusko Ski School, Sergeant Derrick Stoddard of the Albury Ski Club, Sergeant F Due of the Ski Club of Victoria and Lieutenant ED Mills, a Tasmanian langlauf

Two even claimed to have skied up the Murray valley where snow had never fallen!

at Kosciusko. Beeswax, resin, Stockholm tar, paraffin wax and sometimes a little heavy engine oil were the main ingredients. The equipment issue was completed with a cloth cap with ear flaps, windproof cotton over-mitts, woollen gloves and socks, and rucksacks. Sea skins were available for issue if steep gradients were to be climbed.

Snow began to fall heavily on 21

Major James Riddell of the British Army. He had skied for Great Britain in the 1936 Olympic Games. Right: students of the 1st Australian Corps Ski School practising beneath cedars, and on parade at the Cedars, Lebanon, 1942. Australian War Memorial negative numbers 11400, 12200 and 11494



December and continued until Christmas Day. This did not deter a party of 12 touring to the hut on the Col D'Ainata (Col des Cedres), 2,600 metres above sea level, on 24 December. Visibility was poor and the journey was generally unpleasant as there was an ice-laden blizzard at the higher levels, but the last day of the year was beautiful. Across the fresh powder snow a magnificent vista unfolded. To the north, east and south the mountains rose to between 2,600 and 2,750 metres, with beautiful skiing slopes, clear of obstacles, running down to the basin in which the Cedars was situated, 2,000 metres above sea level. To the west a deep gorge, at the head of which lay Bcharre village, ran down to Tripoli.

The snowfalls over the Christmas period had been the heaviest for 30 years, and army transport could not bring rations to the school because the road was covered with three metres of snow. There had also been problems with frozen water pipes and unserviceable heaters; lavatories and baths in the old French barracks near the Cedars were not working and many of the men housed in this building caught bad colds. The No 1 course was abandoned on 6 January 1942 and the students walked to below the snow line where they could get rations. The course had not really been a success as only 10% of the school passed the first

able to transfer to such a specialist unit, was limited.

There was, however, a need for a force to patrol the lofty mountains between Tripoli and Damascus, and for this reason the 1st Australian Corps Ski School resumed operations at the Cedars on 24 January. By 27 January, issues of skiing equipment were completed and all ranks tried the snow. Although not many had had prior skiing experience, they took to learning enthusiastically and after a couple of days could competently snow-plough and stem turn and the whole school was taken to a point a little below the Col des Cedres. A fierce cold wind was blowing, and the unpleasant conditions soon dissipated the men's enthusiasm. In the next few days no fewer than 23 applications were received requesting that the writers be returned to their old units.

With the advent of the New Year, training resumed in earnest. Recruit training consisted of timed ascents using 'kick turn uphill', 'herring bone', and side-stepping methods; timed descents; snow-



test, which approximated to the preliminary test conducted in Australia at the Kosciuszko Ski School. It was apparent that the number of men in the Australian Army with extensive skiing experience,

plough, telemark and christiana turns and maintenance and repair of equipment. Advanced training involved ski-patrolling with emphasis on navigation, signalling and the use of small arms. Tactical



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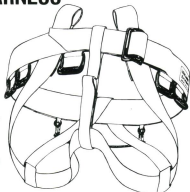
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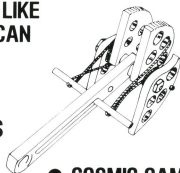


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exercises were then conducted in which small groups of skiers set out to occupy various defensive positions and furnished reports on the valley terrain. In the evenings the students received lectures on such subjects as waxing, care of equipment, and the use of ski troops in other countries. Major Riddell delivered an extremely interesting address on the history of skiing.

Perhaps the most humorous event at the school was the ceremonial parade held on 13 February for the visit of Major General Sir Leslie Morshead.

Sapper WA Rudd outlines what happened before the parade:

'There is a sort of well-beaten track leading down in a sort of shallow valley. With the hot weather the morning snow is just ice since the night freezes the slushy snow of the afternoon. It also freezes the deep ski-tracks and you've no idea how hard it is to ski over them when they are frozen. I got down by the expedient of picking a nice set of tracks — putting my skids in them and letting her go. Crashed just near the bottom and great was the fall thereof. However picked myself up and watched the rest come down. The valley is not very wide; about the width of a tennis court, and seeing some hundred chaps come down *en masse* was simply terrific. There were bodies sprawling everywhere, some chaps were coming down

tracks and came to grief themselves, only to land much harder of course due to their greater speed. She sure was a circus.'

This, of course, took place in full sight of the General, but he was so preoccupied with his efforts to remain upright on his own skis that he was oblivious to what

and Private WM Shane, passed the total test, as the lack of ski goggles severely affected shooting performance. The fastest ascent was made by Private JC Coffey who reached the hut in two hours one minute. The fastest descent, for which 27 minutes was allowed, was made by Sergeant RV Roberts in eight-and-a-half



was going on. The men looked impressive lined up with skis on and poles by their sides, although closer examination would have revealed that coal smoke and other stains had badly discoloured their uniforms and resisted efforts to remove them. The General, wearing skis fitted with seal skins, managed a relatively orderly inspection, only tripping once as he passed the rear rank of troops. He had to do without his General Salute, however, as the trumpeter at the school suffered from sunburnt lips and was unable to blow a note on this occasion.

Advanced training tests were held on 14 January for some students and nearly all recruits had passed through initial recruit training by 16 January. Conditions for the advanced test were ideal as the sun had emerged and softened the snow. Thirty-one men lined up at 9 am complete with rucksacks weighing ten kilograms and rifles with 50 rounds of ammunition. At 9.30 am the first four started and the remainder were sent off at intervals of five minutes in groups of four. The distance to be covered to reach the hut in the Col was four kilometres and the climb 1,000 metres. The time each man arrived at the hut was recorded. They then had one-and-a-half minutes to get ready and two minutes to fire five shots at a target, a 45 centimetres by 30 centimetres piece of cardboard which was 100 metres away. A timed descent followed which ended with more target shooting at the bottom. Only two men, Captain John Cumpston

minutes. The slowest descent took one hour eight minutes and perhaps fortunately for the student, his name is not recorded.

About this time, however, students were informed that the 1st Australian Corps Ski School was to close because the buildings were to be turned into a leave resort. This news was received with much regret as the students were becoming proficient in the art of ski-patrolling and the Chief Instructor felt that a cohesive ski unit was a possibility if only the troops could have received more instruction. By 26 February the school was evacuated. The Australian troops were being recalled to defend their homeland against the new threat posed by the entry of Japan into the war.

So ended a little-known chapter in the history of Australian participation in the Second World War. It is perhaps more important as an episode in the history of Australian cross country skiing — a now sophisticated sport which has advanced at a rate that would astonish those erstwhile practitioners of 40 years ago.

This account is based on the diary of 9th Australian Division Ski Company, meticulously kept by the then Adjutant of the school, Captain John Cumpston, for the period 2 December 1941 to 26 February 1942. Prior to the war Captain Cumpston had skied extensively in Australia at Mt Kosciuszko and at Mt Franklin near Canberra. ●



gingerly, side-stepping, snow-ploughing, short-traversing etc. Others adhered to the trust and bust theory and were shooting down like meteors — at one stage there were three swearing men, hopelessly entangled in the one heap — no sooner would one fall than the "schuss" experts shot past them like a bullet from a gun — and, in trying to avoid them crossed out of the

1st Australian Corps Ski School, Lebanon, 1942. AWM negative number 11504



● MENTION WILPENA POUND, AND MOST South Australians can immediately visualize that well-known landform. When photographed from the air, it resembles a massive arrowhead, its edges forced upward in jagged peaks, its insides sunken and seemingly drained out the shaft. Mention it to me, and I immediately visualize tree trunks and water holes and insects, trivialities compared with the awesome geographical features for which it's famous.

We started our three-day walk into the Pound from Blacks Gap. Brought up in the USA, I was not used to the Australian style of bushwalking. I was bred on maps with trails marked, well-worn paths cleared by Park Rangers, signposts at every junction, water easily available. But my friends were wearing sandals, not hiking boots, and carried only a rough map and a compass for guidance. We used tracks only when grazing stock had made them going our direction; otherwise we headed cross-country.

We planned to enter the Pound from the south-west rim of Bridle Gap. During the climb up to the Gap I acquired numerous scratches and scrapes, dressed as I was in shorts. No one had warned me about the rigours of scrub-bashing, let alone scrub-bashing uphill.

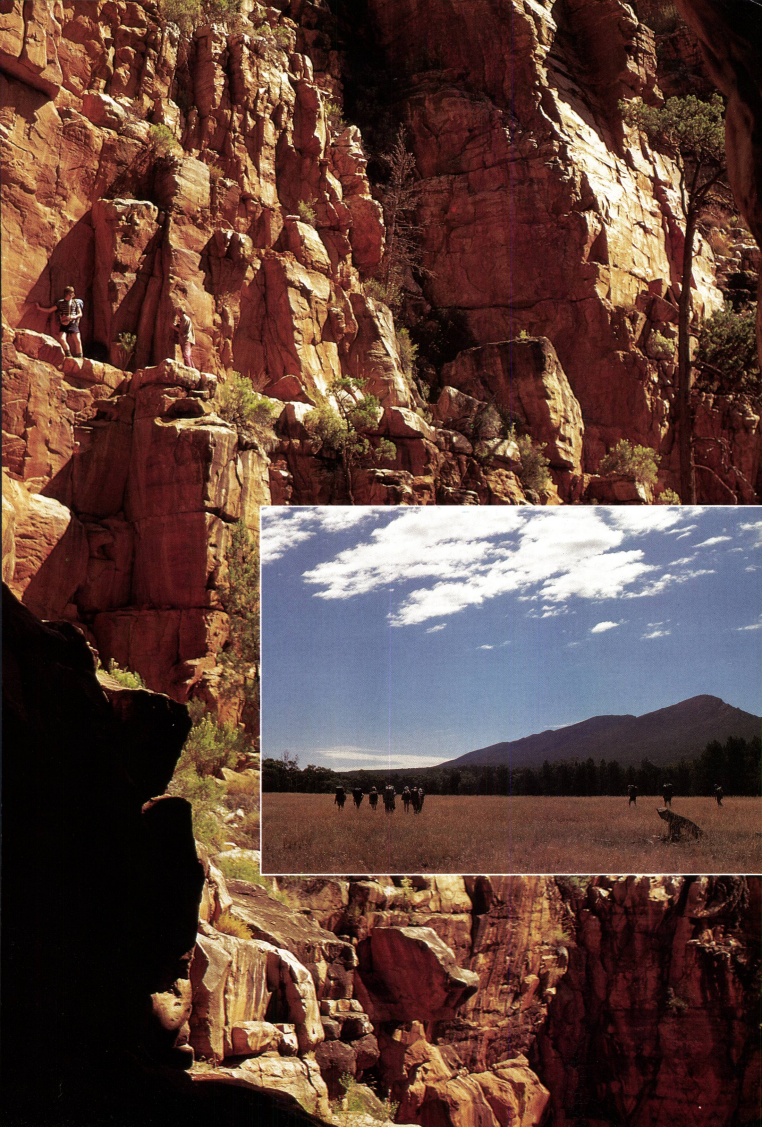
My sigh of relief on reaching the rim was short-lived; on our descent into the Pound I discovered scrub-bashing downhill was only marginally better. As witness to the brutality of that bush, one gold stud ear-ring was somehow wrenched from my left ear in the process and lost forever.

The going was much easier as we crossed the Pound. Sunlight reflected from the golden, almost waist-high, grass. I was fascinated by the giant anthills, which looked like mud brick huts for leprechauns. Most exciting was seeing my first 'real' kangaroo — not one of the tame variety kept in a wildlife reserve to be fed pellets by tourists, but one which was as

Wading along Edeowie Creek. Right, extremes of sunlight and shadow in Edeowie Gorge and, inset, crossing Wilpena Pound. Lane

An American in Wilpena Pound

Nancy Lane's introduction to Australian bushwalking was not a gentle one.



startled to see us as we were to see it. It was long gone by the time I had the presence of mind to try to take a photograph.

Reaching a cluster of trees — and cool shade — on the far side of the Pound, the sunlight seemed less harsh. A good place to put down the packs, have a bite to eat, joke and relax.

But the bite: I'm convinced that dry biscuits with Vegemite are an acquired taste, one usually acquired by Australians too young to know better. On the other hand, my lunch of peanut butter and jam sandwiches made my Australian friends turn asidance.

We arrived at our first campsite by late afternoon. While the keen ones decided to climb St Marys Peak, I volunteered to babysit their packs. My awe of the landscape soon turned to dread when I discovered our water supply: a one metre wide rock hole with more than its share of active insect life. I staved off my thirst for three or four hours until after the others had returned from the Peak and consumed quantities of the stuff; when they hadn't taken violently ill with all manner of gastric pains I gingerly sipped through clenched teeth, hoping to strain out the larger of the beetles and water skaters. I sincerely wished I'd brought a tea strainer, even though I am a coffee drinker.

The second day we headed north-west towards Edeowie Gorge. The going was not too difficult — a rather repetitive uphill, down dale. But with the heat of mid-

day came the flies — more than I'd ever seen on a hiker's back in my life. In addition to panoramic vistas I photographed these aggregations of fellow travellers, should one day I wish to enter the sight in the *Guinness Book of Records*.

Leaving the Pound by this 'back exit' left a lasting impression. On coming to the top of the saddle which forms the watershed of Edeowie Creek, we were suddenly confronted by the monumental burnt orange cliff faces which rise starkly from the green-gray jumble of scrub.

Looking back in the direction we'd come, I could see the rugged distant hills, bathed in a gentle purplish haze. Although I was to discover that this haze couldn't be recorded on film, it was captured in my memory. Since then, I have found that it has also been captured in paintings by the well-known artist, Hans Heyesen.

I was struck by the extremes of sunlight and shadow as we started down into the Gorge. Clefts in the rock-face provided welcome, if temporary, shade from the reflected glare. Along some walls, the desert varnish looked like a half-finished paint job, black enamel spread slapdash over the porous orange sandstone.

The climb down the steep rugged walls was more irksome than dangerous. Native shrubs had already claimed most of the jutting flat outcrops that I wanted to use as handholds and footholds. At a couple of points we lowered our packs by rope as a safety precaution before attempting the descent.

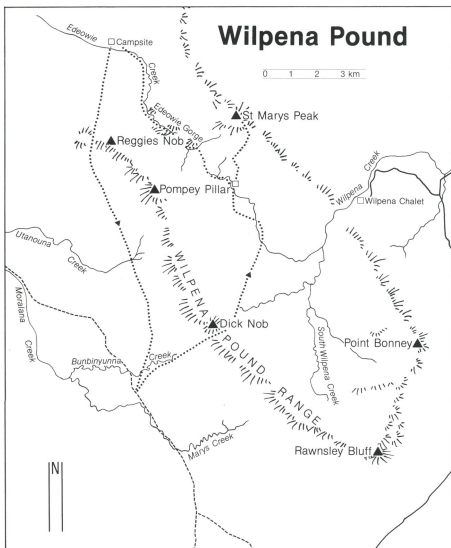
Water may have been in short supply the night before but there was an excess as we made our way along the creek bed, and we often had to wade for several metres in water up to our knees. This was an object lesson in why sandals were preferable to expensive leather hiking boots.

Looking upwards from the creek bed, the canyon walls were covered with lush green vegetation. As the Gorge widened, we passed more and more gum trees, their smooth, solid white trunks somehow symbolic of relief and comfort to come. We camped among them for our second night out.

I was soon to realize that I'd better get over any lingering squeamishness as we dug for wicketty grubs amongst the tree roots, and later cooked them in the coals of the camp fire. Having never seen a recipe for barbecued wicketty grubs, I may have overdone mine. They tasted like a little lump of charcoal, which didn't gel with my knowledge of their being an aboriginal delicacy. Although I like to think I'll try almost anything once, I wasn't game to eat them raw as some in our group did.

On our last day we headed south along the western rim of the Pound, past

My awe of the landscape soon turned to dread when I discovered our water supply.



Pompey Pillar, Dorothy Peak, Harold Hill and Snave Gap. Warren Bonython, well-known bushwalker and writer on the Flinders Ranges, believes these names are trite and inappropriate for such imposing features. I would have to agree. However, they did prove less photogenic from the outside looking in than from the inside looking out, so I concentrated on photographing close-ups of the vegetation and insect life: paddy melons and flame heath, spiders with bulbous abdomens and golden beetles' wings.

Since my introduction to the Flinders Ranges by way of the Pound, I've read what many others have had to say about the area. There are two who have summed up my sentiments in a few well-chosen words.

Hans Heyesen wrote in a letter after his first trip to the Wilpena area in 1926: 'Fine big simple forms against clear transparent skies — and a sense of spaciousness everywhere.' Fifty years later Heyesen's biographer, Colin Thiele, noted: 'The walker in the Flinders has his day ringed with colour'. ●

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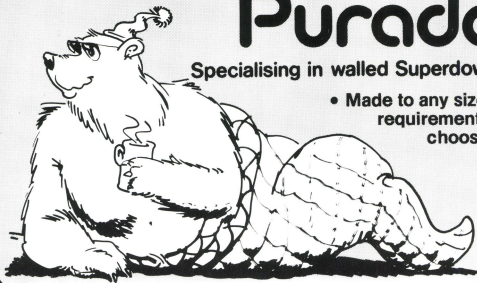
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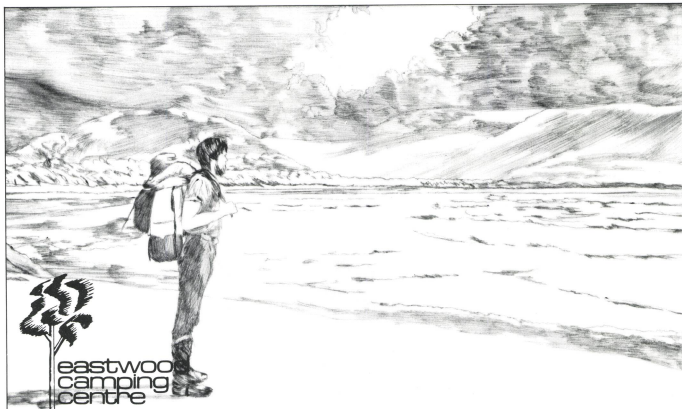
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High on Mt Barney

A visit to
Queensland's
bushwalking
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Gary Tischer.



● ARRIVING AFTER DUSK, WE COULD JUST make out the silhouette of Mt Barney rising over 1,000 metres above us. Our goal the next day was to climb Logans Ridge, one of the most challenging ridges on this, the highest mountain in south-east Queensland.

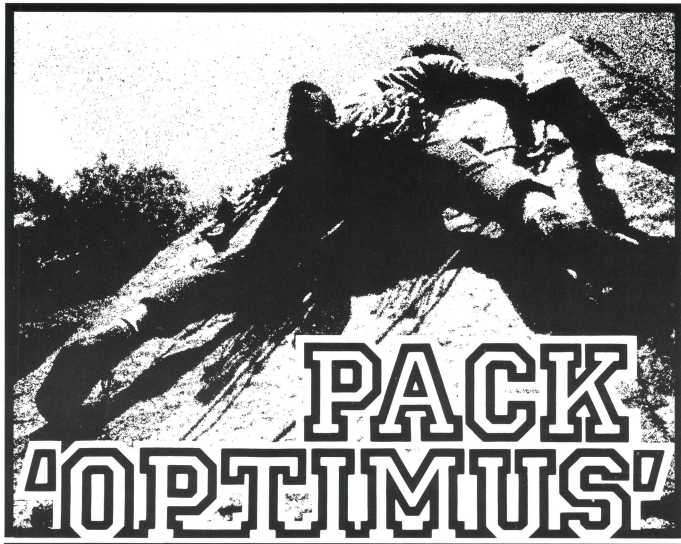
The next morning we clambered from sleeping bags to meet the sun. With everything packed, the last thing to do was to fill the water bottles from the creek which flows on to become the Logan River. Then we headed along our planned route towards the towering mountain.

The area was very dry, as we walked through bush blackened by recent bushfires. There was only a short section of track on the ridge, then it petered out as the ground became rockier.

We had been walking through open bush for nearly two hours before we reached an area of large slabs. Here we could see Mt Lindesay, rather like a tiered wedding cake, to the south while Mt Maroon, with its gentle western slopes and precipitous eastern cliffs, lay to the north.

The pace slowed as the grade steepened and care had to be taken on the steep slabs and loose rocks. We soon

Descending towards Mt Barney's North Pinnacle and, above, towards Rum Jungle, between the East and West Peaks. All photos Tischer.

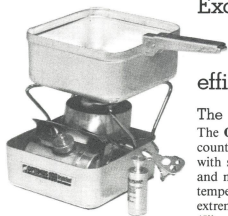


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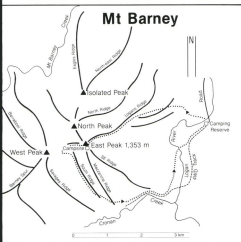
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rested on an outcrop of boulders, consumed the normal assortment of dried fruit and nuts and welcomed the breeze that gave some relief from the mid-morning heat. The summit had disappeared from view behind the false summits of the ridge above.

Dodging a large whip snake sunning itself in our path, we continued climbing and after a short chimney found ourselves looking at a 15 metre wall. Bob soloed to the top, throwing the rope down with John following on a belay. The packs were hauled up, then I clipped into the rope using a self-belay. Nigel followed.

A further 40 minutes and we had a magnificent view of the 300 metre East Face. From the west, some ominous black clouds started to roll in, giving us an incentive to keep moving. With the most exposed and steepest section still to come, the prospect of climbing it in the wet was not pleasant.

The summit appeared after a steep razor-back section and it was now that we could see the difficult, final 200 metres.



Searching for the most suitable route, a small tree-lined ledge up to the right seemed the best choice. The ledge was not all it had seemed to be, and there was some airy traversing and climbing. This section proved most exhilarating, even a little frightening at times. At last, seven hours after leaving the coolness of the creek below, we reached the 1,353 metre summit of the East Peak and were able to take in the 360° view of the surrounding mountains. The full extent of the spectacular Scenic Rim could be seen stretching round to the north-west and eastward to the Pacific.

By now the sky, dark and threatening, had fully clouded over. John and I set up the fly sheets where they would be protected from the strengthening winds and after collecting firewood we were able to rest our weary bodies round the fire. Heavy rain started soon after we had climbed into the sleeping bags, filling up the billys and thankfully replenishing our depleted water bottles.

Top, the campsite on the North Peak and, bottom, looking south towards Mt Ernest and Mt Lindesay (background)

The morning was fresh and clear. Mt Lindesay could be seen rising above the thick layer of fog that lay in the valleys. With packs on again, the four of us descended into Rum Jungle between the East and West Peaks, feeling

from gorges to razor-back ridges, passing through open eucalypt forest or dense rainforest. The only track leading to the top is on the South Ridge, while the rest of the mountain is unimproved National Park. Water can be found in Mt Barney



tremendously exhilarated as we walked high above the rising fog.

The sheer size of Mt Barney could be seen as we walked down. From the saddle, the South Ridge led us through patches of rainforest to the Logan River, and from there, regrettably, back home. It had been an unforgettable two days. Even as the car started, a return trip was being planned.

•
The Mt Barney massif is really several mountains rolled into one, with three peaks over 1,200 metres. There are over 20 different routes on Mt Barney, ranging

Creek and Cronan Creek at the base of the mountain or, usually, in the saddle between the East and West Peaks. There is no water on the ridges or peaks.

Mt Barney is close to the Queensland-New South Wales border, one-and-a-half hours' drive south of Brisbane. To reach the camping reserve at the foot of Mt Barney, the Mt Lindesay Highway is followed to ten kilometres south of Rathdowney where the turn-off to Barney View is taken. The bitumen is followed to a T-intersection, where the gravel road to the left leads to the camping area by the Logan River. •



David Tassell

Rugged coastline, Fitzgerald River National Park.
All photos are taken in Western Australia.





Dry season waterfall; Mitchell Falls, north Kimberley region. Inset, top, Red Gorge, Hamersley Range National Park. Bottom, wet season waterfall; Surveyors Pool, north Kimberley region.



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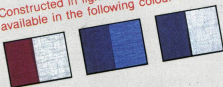
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TrackNotes

Rafting the Franklin

A guide to our most famous wild river, by Yvonne McLaughlin.



• THE FRANKLIN RIVER RISES HIGH IN THE CHEYNE Range of central Tasmania. During its 125 kilometre journey to the Gordon River its character is constantly changing. Peaceful rainforest lines the banks of this fast-moving and, at times, narrow river. With the addition of its many tributaries, the Franklin gains volume and strength as it enters the deep and forbidding gorges of its middle section. Here tranquil pools are punctuated by roaring rock-strewn rapids, the delight and fear of every river rafter. Lower down, the valley widens, rapids become gentler and the current slows. Finally the Franklin empties into the Gordon River, making its way to Macquarie Harbour, on the south-west coast.

Rafting the Franklin is a great outdoor adventure. **It is also a potentially dangerous activity, and should not be undertaken lightly.** Previous bush and rafting experience, thorough preparation and

reliable equipment are essential. In recent years there have been a number of serious incidents on the Franklin. These include a number of deaths, several evacuations of injured rafters, as well as searches for lost or overdue individuals and parties. While accidents can befall the most experienced and well-equipped parties, it is far more likely that it will be the inexperienced or poorly prepared rafters who come to grief.

When to go. January, February and March are the best months. The river is at its lowest and warmest, the days are long and the weather is at its best. Slightly earlier, or later, can also be good. It all depends on the prevailing weather patterns and river levels. Even during these so-called 'best' times, the weather can be extremely harsh, so go prepared for wet and cold conditions.

Access. The most popular way to gain access to the Franklin is by paddling down the Collingwood River, from the Collingwood Bridge on the Lyell

Highway. If the river is high, it is possible to launch on the Franklin itself, at the Franklin Bridge on the Lyell Highway.

Exit. A full trip will take about two weeks, given good conditions and a couple of days spent resting and/or exploring. However, it is wise to be prepared for a longer trip, given the likelihood of wet weather and the quick and dangerous rises in river level that follow.

Throughout the summer the cruiser the *Denison Star* makes a daily trip up the Gordon River, and can be boarded for the return journey to Strahan. For those not intending to remain with the Franklin until it reaches the Gordon, the Franklin can be left at Fincham Crossing or Mt McCall.

Both exits involve at least a full day's walk with gear. The river can also be left at a couple of other points, but these routes are not recommended for rafters carrying gear. (See map — The Franklin River.)

Maps. Tasmap: Franklin 1:100,000 series and Olga

Campsite near Thunderush. Michael Fogarty



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A peaceful scene on the Franklin, photo Bob Brown/TWS

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Dove Lake, Cradle Mountain area.
Photo Kevin Doran.



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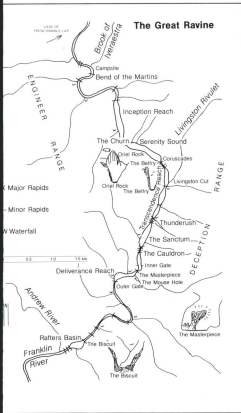
Safety. Register with the police (at any police station), or leave details of your trip with a responsible person, before setting off. Don't forget to deregister when you finish your trip.

The ideal size for a rafting party is six members. With fewer, a party could have trouble coping with a serious illness or injury to a member. More than six is too many, creating communication problems when the party spreads out between the fastest and slowest members, and puts a strain on the small campsites. The larger the party, the slower you will be.

Group members must be both physically and psychologically prepared for the trip, and be experienced in bushcraft and rafting. Some aspects of the trip, such as portaging (carrying raft and gear round rapids) can be extremely demanding, and in places extremely hazardous.

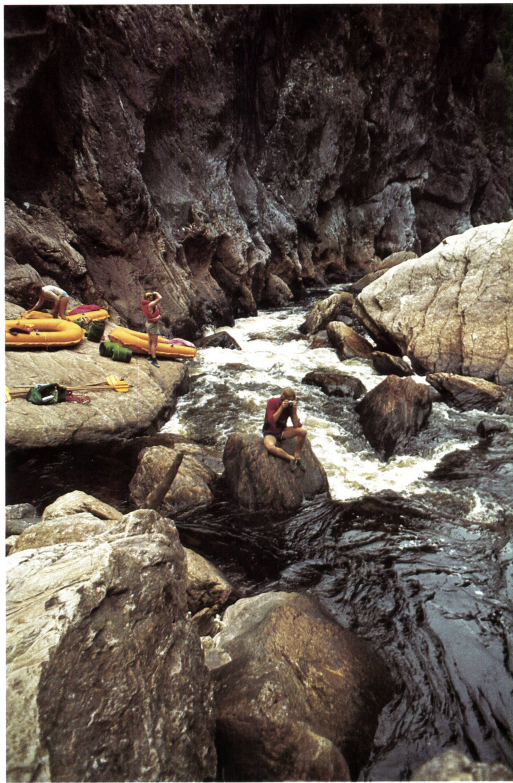
Stop before all large rapids, or where the exit of a rapid is not clearly visible. View from the bank first, and if in doubt portage or line the rafts through. If you decide to raft through, take it one at a time, with one person standing in a position to view everyone's passage, and ready to give assistance. The first rafter should wait until everyone is through the rapid. Emergencies are nearly always unexpected and call for teamwork. If you find yourself going for an involuntary dip, try and float down the rapid feet-first. If possible retrieve your raft and paddle, drift into still water, empty out excess water and resume your journey. If your raft has escaped, it will be up to your companions to retrieve it for you.

Partially submerged trees are a great hazard on the Franklin. Not only can they cause capsizes and rip holes in your raft, but all too easily a swimmer can be pinned (sometimes underwater) against a branch, a situation in which rescue is very difficult. Rafters should always be aware that the remoteness of the area, so much a part of its attraction, means that help in the event of an emergency can be several days away.



distant. If an accident occurred in the middle Franklin gorges, or if floodwaters forced a retreat from this area, considerable bushwalking skill and endurance would be required before civilization is reached.

Rafts. Two- or four-man rubber rafts, or rubber duckies, as they are affectionately referred to, are ideal. These rubberized fabric rafts with a non-



inflatable floor are really one-person-plus-luggage size. The smaller 'two man' rafts tend to ship a fair amount of water in bigger rapids. However, they are more manoeuvrable and are most easily emptied when they have to be emptied. They are also lighter, an advantage when portaging. In the bigger rapids, the 'four-man' rafts are much less vulnerable to capsize or swamping, and of course they carry more. Overall, the 'four-man' raft is recommended for the Franklin.

Paddles. The plastic paddles often sold with rafts are not suitable for use on the Franklin. Suitable paddles may be purchased from outdoor shops, or can be easily made from three metres of 30 millimetre dowelling. Oval blades of marine three ply, 380 millimetres long, are screwed and glued to the slightly

The Sluice. Phil Johnstone

planed dowelling, so as to leave 150 millimetres of dowelling jutting out beyond the blades (for use as a rock and log deflector; the tip can be protected by a rubber cap). Check that the paddle will float. Also, paint makes them easier to find if they get lost. At least two or more blades and screws (plus screwdriver) are recommended per party, as well as three or four hose clamps for repairing cracked shafts.

Personal safety gear. Lifejackets or buoyancy vests must be worn when on the water. Bicycle or canoeing helmets (they have holes in them) should be worn when on the water and during portages. Wetboots or sandshoes (with good grip soles) should be worn. A wetsuit is strongly recommended, otherwise wool is the best material for retaining body heat. If you wear glasses or sunglasses, tie them on.

Ropes. A six millimetre rope about 15 metres long

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is useful for tying up the raft or manoeuvring it from the shore. (It is important to tie up rafts and paddles to a solid dry anchorage point every night.) As well, a rope this size could be strung through the holes on the side of your raft, so that you have something to grab hold of if you capsize. Various lengths of rope, fishnet or webbing are necessary to attach barrels and packs to the raft. Each party should have a bigger rope, say 30 metres of eight millimetre rope, for use in portaging or retreating. Be careful that there are no loose ropes in your raft to entangle you should you capsize.

Containers. Five-gallon plastic barrels, with wide screw tops with water seals are good for carrying gear. A good rucksack is useful for side trips, portaging and in case you are forced to walk out. Plastic bags are necessary to ensure that everything stays dry. (Take plenty of spares.) A robust bag (such as hessian) is handy for one of the party to carry most of the pots and pans.

Raft repair kit. For small punctures a bicycle mending kit is ideal. This mends rubberized fabric holes in five minutes or so. Some PVC adhesive duct tape is handy for temporary repairs to both rafts and plastic bags. In case a large rip is sustained it is essential to take at least half a car inner tube per raft, and an appropriate amount of contact adhesive. Strong needles, thread and spare rubberized canvas patches could be useful. Keep an eye on the air pressure inside the rafts, as the sun can quickly raise this to rupture point, especially when the raft is out of the water.

First aid kit. Take a comprehensive one, and know how to use its contents. A knowledge of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation is strongly advised.

Miscellaneous equipment. An efficient pump can save a lot of effort. A rubberized canvas air mattress is very useful. It provides a protective air cushion between you and your gear and the floor of the raft. It is also nice to sleep on. A reliable small stove, and sufficient fuel is important. Small trowel for toilet, torch, camera, film and any other small items to make the trip easier or more memorable should be included.

Campsites. Generally speaking, campsites are small, and often difficult to spot from the river. Start looking for a campsite in mid-afternoon. Camp well above the river, so as not to be caught unawares if the river should rise suddenly during the night.

Fire. Following recent serious fires in the Franklin catchment area, the Wilderness Society has evolved a policy of no fires in the period November to March. For much of this period Total Fire Bans may also be applied by the Tasmanian Fire Service. However, under certain circumstances you may need to light a fire. If this happens, the fire should be lit on rock or shingle only and it is essential that it be extinguished thoroughly.

Rubbish. Whatever you carry in, carry out, including broken paddles, damaged rafts etc. If you have the misfortune to come across rubbish left by others, please dispose of that too.

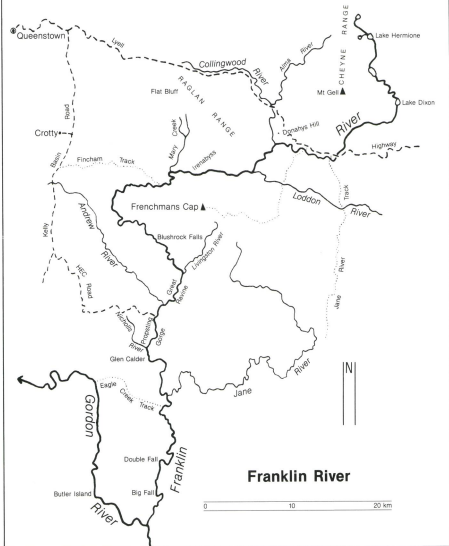
Sanitary arrangements. No washing should be done in the river with soap or detergents. Water can be taken up the banks and thrown out well away from the river after use. Make sure your toilet isn't going to offend other river users. Take a trowel with you for this purpose.

Log-books. For safety reasons, and for interest and enjoyment, make an entry in the log-books you pass, especially those at the start and finish of your trip.

They are situated at: 1 The Collingwood and Franklin River bridges. 2 The Frenchmans Cap Track flying fox over the Franklin. 3 The bar on the Denison Star (ask the attendant). There are usually logbooks: 4 Beneath the gauging tower by the river at Fincham Crossing. 5 At the start of the Caudron portage track in the Great Ravine. The riverside log-books are usually in a flat metal or plastic container.

Rafting the Franklin is a great wilderness experience. To fully enjoy and appreciate its wonder, without jeopardising others, thorough preparation and adherence to basic safety rules are essential. As well, respect for the environment will mean that those who follow will be able to experience the beauty and allure of this magnificent river.

The Wilderness Society's *Notes for Franklin River Ratters and Bushwalkers* is recommended reading before you start your trip. Also, it is worth contacting a Wilderness Society office before your trip, for up-to-date information on conditions and for details of



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If you want to raft the Franklin, but under the aegis of an organized group, there are several commercial tour operators who offer such trips. See the Adventure Activities Directory at the back of this magazine.

The Franklin can be divided into four sections: from the Collingwood Bridge to Irenabys, then to the Great Ravine, then through the Great Ravine and on to Glen Calder, and finally the lower Franklin to its junction with the Gordon. These sections can be given difficulty ratings of 3, 2, 4 and 1. The ratings reflect the ruggedness of the terrain the river is cutting through.

Collingwood Bridge to Irenabys

As a rough guide, don't set out if the river is above the one metre mark on the bridge gauge, or if it is raining and the river is rising. In average water conditions it will take about four hours to reach the Franklin-Collingwood junction. At a high level, this section is a challenging start to your trip.

Upstream of the Loddon River junction marks the start of the Huon pines. It is well worth looking out for the older mature trees, as they are magnificent. From the Loddon it is a short run to the Nasty Notch rapid (about two kilometres upstream of the Irenabys). The Notch can be easily portaged on either side, but the left side (facing downstream) is the safer. The next bend brings you to the Irenabys Gorge. This is a deep narrow chasm, about 150 metres long, beautiful and awe inspiring. The one kilometre stretch above the Irenabys contains a number of difficult rapids. If the river is high, some arduous portaging over the left bank boulder field may be necessary. Otherwise it is a fast run to the Irenabys and tranquility.

Irenabys to the Great Ravine

This is a great section, not too demanding, but with plenty of white water. Don't get complacent, assess the bigger rapids before tackling them, and avoid log jams. It is worth stopping frequently to explore some of the side creeks and ridges. Each is a naturalist's and photographer's delight.

Great Ravine to Glen Calder

There are four major rapids in this section which, depending on water levels, need to be partially or fully portaged. There are also many lesser rapids, which can also be hazardous, and great care should be taken. If in doubt, portage. Taking the four major rapids in turn.

The Churn. You will hear the noise of the water before you see the rapid. The portage track is on the left bank, immediately before the first white water, and not difficult to spot. Assuming a couple of trips per person, the portage, which is fairly demanding, will take about two hours.

The Corscades. A series of rapids which you will see well before the portage route. This route is over the rocks on the left bank, and is about 300-400 metres in length. It will take about two hours.

Thunderush. The most difficult one! Be alert and ready for it, as a number of rafters have been swept, unprepared, into Thunderush. Just above it, the river narrows and gathers pace. Be ready to pull into the left bank immediately after the narrows. The noise will warn you as you get close. Keep your party well spaced, so each has time to pull in and leave room for the next corner.

If the river is high it is best to pull in to the right bank soon after the rapids below Livingston Cut. From here, under high water conditions, it may be necessary to rope rafts round the rock bluff immediately above Thunderush. In low water the upper part of Thunderush can be bypassed on the rocks on the left bank, and rafters can shoot the Sluice, opposite the big mid-stream boulder.

However, it is usually necessary to take the portage track on the right-hand bank. The track rises about 150 metres through scrub, crosses a small spur, then goes down a small rocky gully. The track ends about 100 metres downstream from its beginning.

Scout the track before you start carrying gear, as there are a number of false leads. This track is extremely precarious, with many footholds and handholds loose and unsafe. A climbing rope for belaying people and hauling gear is essential. Take great care here. If an accident occurred, rescue would be extremely difficult. The complete portage will take about six or seven hours.

The Cauldron. Once again, be alert, but pull in on the left bank as soon as you hear the noise. The

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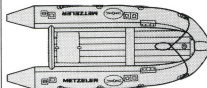
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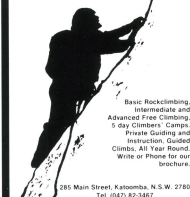
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Cauldron is just round the first bend after Thunderush. The track, which is easy to spot, is fairly demanding. The portage will take about three hours. At low levels it is possible to haul your gear over the boulders on the right-hand side of the Cauldron.

The trip through the Great Ravine is memorable, with the added spice of some danger. Great care must be taken on all portages, particularly as the rocks and tracks become very slippery in wet conditions. Choose your campsite with care as, after rain, the river may rise ten metres or more in a day in this section. All floods have to be sat out. Don't race a rising river, or rush a falling flow.

The run to Ratters Basin, then through Propsting Gorge to Glen Calder contains a lot of white water and many rapids. Several will need to be portaged.

Well-laden rafts on the Franklin. Fogarty

In particular watch for the rapid just above Pigtrough Falls. Portage both sections of this rapid on the right bank. Just past Rock Island Bend is Newlands Cascades, and this series of drops can be portaged on a long rock platform on the right bank. (See map — The Great Ravine.)

The Lower Franklin

This is a real delight, with lots of good bouncy rapids. Watch for two rapids just upstream of the Jane River. The first is Double Falls, the second Big Fall. Both warrant portaging. Depending on water level, this can be done on either bank. The number of rapids decreases as the Franklin gets closer to its confluence with the Gordon River.

Acknowledgement: maps and some information taken from the Wilderness Society booklet: *Notes for Franklin River Rafters and Bushwalkers*. ●

Reviews

Antarctica 1984 Calendar (Karen Williams and Harry Keys, RRP \$7.20 approx). **Australian Climbing Calendar 1984** (Vertically, RRP \$8.65). **Contemplation Calendar 1984** (Peter Ewing Photography, RRP \$5.50). **Tasmanian Wilderness Calendar 1984** (Peter Dombrovskis, RRP \$6.50). **Victoria's National Parks Calendar 1984** (Victorian National Parks

Association, RRP \$7.00). **Wilderness Australia Calendar 1984** (Robert Rankin Publishing, RRP \$6.95). **1984 Wilderness Flight Calendar** (England Calendars, RRP \$5.95). **1984 Wilderness New South Wales** (Kalianna Press, RRP \$6.95). **Wilderness Queensland Calendar 1984** (Robert Rankin Publishing, RRP \$6.95).

The wilderness calendar market must surely be approaching saturation point. This year there are more available in Australian outdoor shops than ever before. As in the past, there are significant variations in their quality, particularly in design and production.

Antarctica is a relatively low-key production with the graphics leaving something to be desired. The pictures are nothing special but the one on the cover, of diving penguins, has a certain charm.

The previous calendar on Australian rockclimbing was published in the late 1960s (and, incidentally, was probably Australia's first rucksack sports/wilderness calendar). Whilst it was in black and white, the difference between it and the 1984 calendar is not as great as might be expected. Robert McMahon's atmospheric photo stands out. A number of the climbs pictured (without grades given) have been featured in better photographs published previously.

The only black and white calendar reviewed, *Contemplation*, is a superb effort with outstanding photography, attractive design and excellent printing. The photos, of Western Australian wilderness, include a number of fascinating close-ups.

The *Tasmanian Wilderness Calendar* is still the standard by which the others are judged. This year Dombrovskis has varied his subjects slightly with some outstanding coastal photos. Superb!

Victoria's National Parks Calendar is aiming for a more 'general' market. Production is

unimpressive and while the photos vary, most are forgettable.

Robert Rankin produces two calendars: *Wilderness Australia* includes work by other photographers as well as Rankin. This seems to be a pity as most of these photographs are not as strong as Rankin's. The Tasmanian photos, in particular, have not reproduced well. Rankin's photo of two waterfalls in the Lamington National Park stands out, however, from his other pictures, not all of which are memorable. *Wilderness Queensland* is more even, with the winter months particularly blessed with delightful pictures, even if the rest of the year is a bit lukewarm!

Jim England's aerial views of Tasmania continue to have a following from lovers of this wild wonderland. The quality of photography is consistent with previous years.

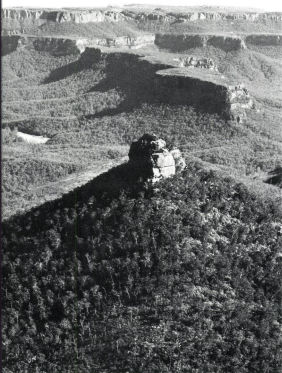
Wilderness New South Wales is an inspiring production but not as even as in the past. Some pictures seem to suffer for their relatively dull subject matter, but the close-ups are particularly pleasing.

Chris Baxter

Wild Places text by Peter Prineas, photography by Henry Gold (Kalianna Press, 1983, RRP \$24.95).

These days, anyone illustrating a major wilderness volume with high quality black and white photographs has to be courageous: obviously, colour photography is more eye-catching and commercially attractive. But in this case the decision should be applauded because Henry Gold's black and white landscape photographs are works of art in their

The Coomera and Yarrabilligong Falls, Lamington National Park, Queensland. Photo by Robert Rankin, reproduced from Wilderness Australia Calendar 1984. Left, Pigeon House Mountain, the Clyde Gorge, and the Northern Budawang Range from the air. New South Wales. Photo by Henry Gold, reproduced from Wild Places.



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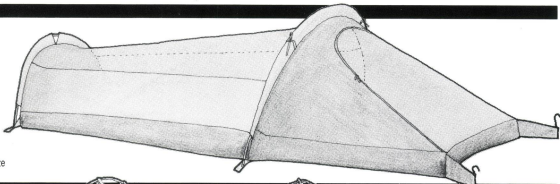
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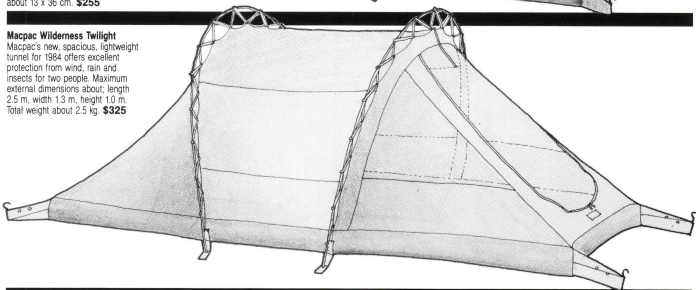
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Tasmania. The Treasure Island.

own right, a fine complement to a comprehensive book. They are printed duotone (whereby a shade of grey as well as black is printed), resulting in superb resolution. (*Wild* readers may remember Gold's 'Folio' in the second issue of the magazine.)

Gold's photographic images (including the unusual perspectives obtained from aerial shots) make this book a worthy coffee table piece. But the book is more than that: it also qualifies as a fine reference work.

An impressive amount of research has gone into *Wild Places*, and as a result it is the most thorough record to date of the wilderness areas of eastern New South Wales. Each region is catalogued, described, mapped and photographed. There is a tremendous wealth of detail on a wide range of subjects that includes such diverse topics as aboriginal occupation, early European exploration and conservation battles. Sources are acknowledged comprehensively, and there is a detailed index as well as large-scale maps.

This book is not unlike Dick Johnson's book about the Victorian Alps, *The Alps at the Cross Roads*, which was published about ten years ago. However, *Wild Places* is much better produced as well as being far more erudite.

Don't be surprised over the next few months if the bookshelves of many New South Wales wilderness lovers sprout copies of *Wild Places*.

Brian Walters

Discover Australia's National Parks & Naturelands by Michael and Irene Morcombe (Lansdowne Press, 1983, RRP \$30).

Dunes, scrub, cliffs, forests, gorges, waterfalls... the diversity of Australia's naturelands is breathtaking. In this book the Morcombes succeed in giving the reader a taste of that variety — and create a thirst for seeing the real thing.

At first I thought this would be simply another coffee table volume with pretty pictures, but there's much more to it than that.

The authors (a husband and wife team) spent two years compiling their book of discovery, and they divide Australia into 30 distinctive natureland areas. As well as a map and general description of the attractions of each area, there is also information on geology, wildlife and even suggested walks. At the end of the book there is a traveller's guide which, for each natureland or National Park, gives details of the main attractions, the topography and vegetation types, the activities, the best season to visit, and accommodation. This material is pitched at a level which would be of most interest to families.

Michael Morcombe's photographs are not merely the bland picture postcard panoramas so often found in books on National Parks. His photography is sensitive and of high technical quality, with many highly original images. Detracting from this in the copy I saw (admittedly a review copy) there were some blemishes on photographs through the book, and it is a pity that his striking shots have been let down by the book's production.

The Morcombes' personal response to the broad sweep of Australian naturelands reminds us of the richness we have to conserve for future generations.

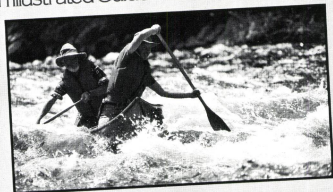
BW

Classic Climbs of Australia by Joe Friend (Second Back Row Press, 1983, RRP \$16.95).

The spring 1979 issue of *Thru* (a now-defunct climbing publication) included an advertisement soliciting orders for a book on Australia's classic climbs. Unfortunately *Classic Climbs of Australia*, just released, is more dated

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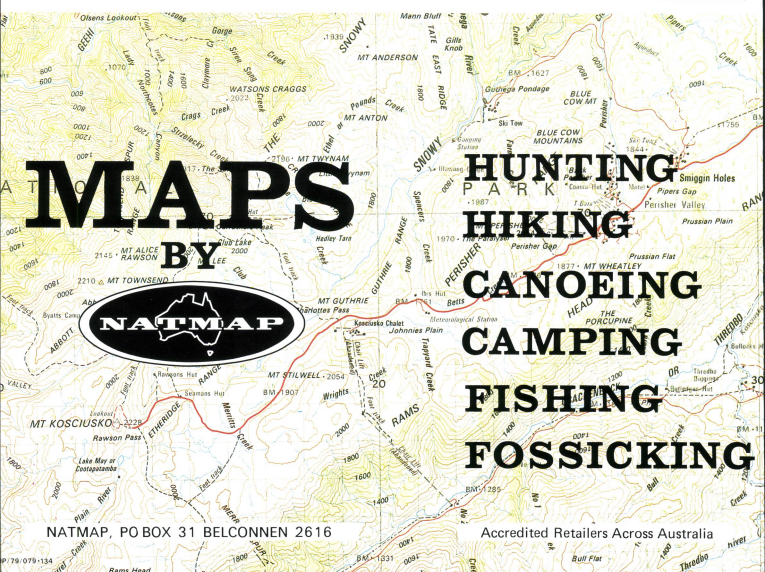
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and unreliable than even its premature promotion might suggest.

Classic Climbs is, at first glance, quite appealing with its smart cover, reasonable price and abundance of photos. Closer inspection reveals a hotch-potch of poorly edited, seriously dated, inaccurate (for example, photo captions on pages 16, 47, 62, 72, 74 and 80), and uneven material. The photographs, generally poor, include some that are interesting, entertaining and historically significant.

There is too much obsolete information in the book. For example, the section 'Recent Developments at Mt Arapiles' states that routes there 'now number some 800'. The correct figure is approaching twice that. The choice of routes selected also reflects the text's palaeolithic origins.

Contemporary Australian climbers are unlikely to be impressed by this effort. It may convince overseas climbers that we are still in the Dark Ages.

CB

Notes for Franklin River Rafter and Bushwalkers (The Wilderness Society, fifth edition 1982, RRP \$4.00).

Considered to be the 'bible' for Franklin River rafters, these notes are now presented in a more practical format: a soft cover booklet has replaced the previous stapled foolscap sheets. This new edition incorporates information given by many river users, and has a number of new sections that will be of particular interest to people who want to combine rafting and bushwalking in the area.

The rafting notes are very thorough, with information on equipment, access and egress points, the river and its rapids, portage tracks, log-book locations and so on.

The main weakness is that insufficient warning is given on the potential dangers of rafting in general, and on the Franklin in particular. Basic safety rules are only briefly mentioned, and there is no mention of river characteristics and how to 'read' the river. For instance, where eddies (quiet water) can be found in rapids, where the current flows fastest and so on.

The description of the river itself, and particularly of the major rapids in the Great Ravine, is very good. The portage tracks are well described. The maps are useful and, as well as showing all the major rapids, they pinpoint some of the more interesting and scenic aspects of the river. However, they do not reduce the need for the Tasmap reference maps of the area.

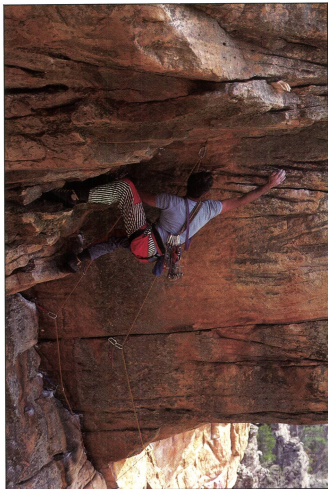
Notes on the geology, vegetation, animals and history of the area are interesting and add another dimension to the trip. A number of campsites are described and listed with their map reference numbers.

The descriptions of the various walks in the area are very good. The most popular walk, from the Irenabyss (on the Franklin) to Frenchmans Cap and back, is illustrated with a sketch map.

These notes, illustrated with a number of sketches and cartoons, are easy to read and very reasonably priced. As well as straight information, they give a number of useful tips, and are excellent value for anyone contemplating rafting down the Franklin or walking in that area.

Yvonne McLaughlin

Path of the Paddle: An Illustrated Guide to the Art of Canoeing by Bill Mason (Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1980, available from Rosco Canoes, 382 Lutwyche Road, Windsor,



Rock 1984

If you are into rockclimbing you won't want to miss the 1984 issue — on sale now! The price is the same as last year and there is much more colour. Get *Rock*, the Australian climbing magazine, for \$3.60 where outdoor magazines are sold, or order direct from the publisher.

Don't miss out, send a cheque or money order today for \$43.60 (includes postage anywhere in the world) to Wild Publications Pty Ltd, PO Box 415, Prahran, Victoria 3181. (Back issues: 1978, 1979 — \$41.95 each; 1983 — \$43.60.) Trade enquiries welcome. Photo: *Rock* editor, Chris Baxter, on A Taste of Honey (21), Mt Arapiles, Victoria, by Sue Baxter.

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This top quality book is a pleasure to read and has something of value for all canoeists, from the beginner to the highly skilled expert.

The author combines a lively text with over 650 photographs and diagrams, presenting all the important aspects of the sport. He gives amusing anecdotes and recounts fascinating experiences he has had while canoeing in the diverse, and at times very exciting, waters of North America.

Bill Mason is something of a celebrity in Canada, where he is a leading canoeist, conservationist and film maker. His canoeing instruction films are very popular here in Australia.

The price of the book will limit its appeal, but for those who are interested in canoeing, from its origins to modern materials and techniques, it represents value for money.

Topics such as canoeing equipment, basic and advanced technique, 'reading' water conditions, safety measures, anticipating problems, and wilderness camping are well covered. The photographs and diagrams are excellent, and are a pleasure to browse through.

A drawback of the book is that there is no mention of the kayak, it is solely oriented towards canoeing. This is a pity because not only does it narrow the market of a good book, but also Bill Mason is denying his readers the opportunity of making comparisons, and of learning of his own views and experiences of kayaks.

Bill Mason writes with simplicity and enthusiasm. He has captured both the excitement and the quiet pleasure that canoe touring offers. *Path of the Paddle* is the sort of book that you will enjoy owning and will continue to refer to over the years.

YMcL

Expeditions & Exploration by Nigel Gifford (Macmillan, 1983, RRP \$29.95).

Ever thought of climbing a Himalayan peak? Or perhaps of taking a jaunt to the Antarctic? If you have, *Expeditions & Exploration* is the book to read before committing yourself. Implementing such ideas requires careful planning and hard work.

Nigel Gifford's book is a guide to those undertaking major trips to remote places. And like a successful expedition, the book is well researched and carefully thought out. Gifford has drawn together the experiences of many notable expedition leaders, including Chris Bonington and numerous luminaries from Britain's Royal Geographical Society. Their experience covers deserts, wild rivers, caves, the tropics, and remote mountain ranges, as well as Arctic and Antarctic conditions.

Well illustrated with colour and black and white photos, the book is packed with good advice to ensure any risks taken on your expedition are calculated ones.

BW

Sacred Summits by Peter Boardman (Hodder & Stoughton, 1982, \$32.95).

In 1979 young English Himalayan mountaineer Peter Boardman went on three lightweight expeditions which are described in *Sacred Summits*.

The first, to romantic and remote Carstensz Pyramid in Irian Jaya, will be of particular interest to Australian readers.

The second involved a major new route on Kangchenjunga, the world's third highest peak. Much of this material has appeared elsewhere in the mountaineering press.

It is in describing the third expedition, a



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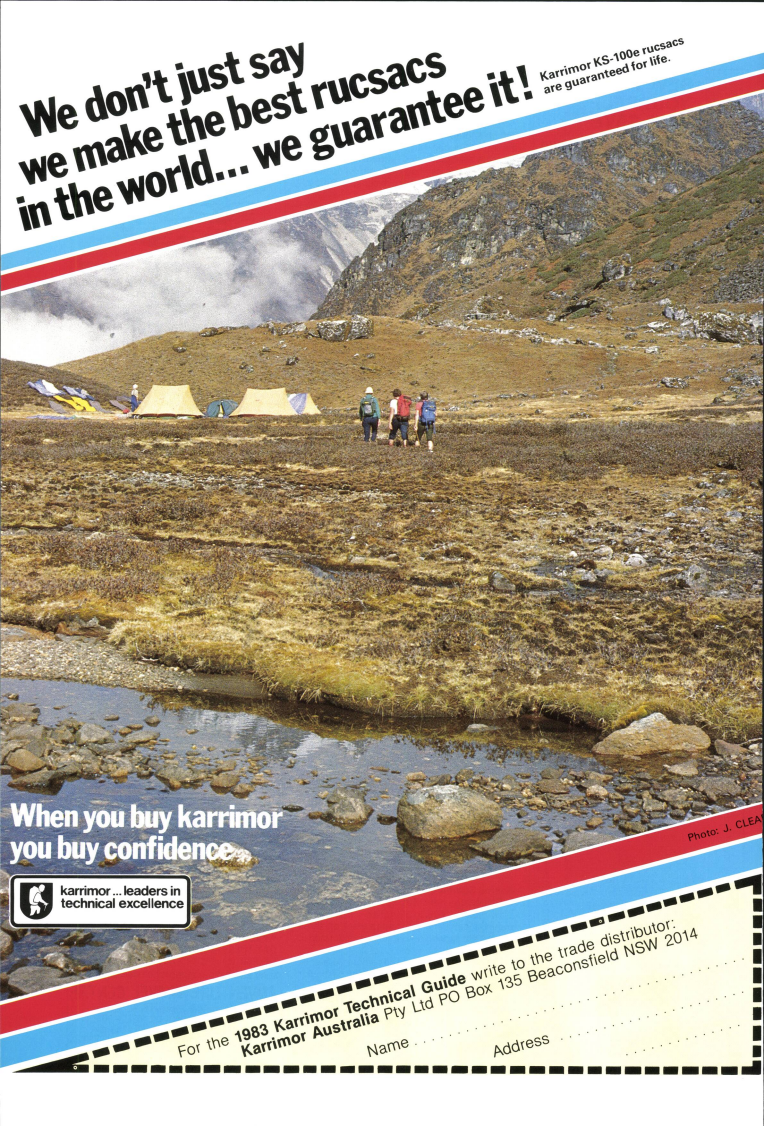
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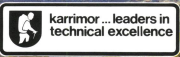


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particularly adventurous climb on another Himalayan giant, Gauri Sankar, that Boardman has the reader firmly in his grasp. This is an enthralling tale of enormous difficulties, fear, perseverance and ultimate victory by the most slender of margins. This climb surely rates as one of the great efforts of mountaineering and it is a wonderfully told tale of the tough realities and life-and-death nature of modern Himalayan climbing.

Boardman helped pioneer four of the most adventurous climbs yet done in the Himalayas. Almost alone he also brought humility, honesty and palm-sweating drama to mountain literature. His tragically premature death on Mt Everest while this book was in preparation is a loss that will be keenly felt for years.

CB

A Climber's Guide to Frog Buttress by Joe Lynch (Published by the author, 1983, RRP \$5.50).

Moonarie: A Rock-Climber's Guide by Tony Barker and Quentin Chester (The Climbing Club of South Australia, RRP \$6.00).

A Climber's Guide to the Rest Around Mt Victoria by Andrew Penney (Published by the author, 1982, RRP \$8.95).

From its earliest climbing days, Queensland's Frog Buttress has been a controversial climbing area with correspondingly controversial guidebooks. This latest effort is an attempt to introduce some sobriety to the scene. *Frog Buttress*, and the other guides reviewed, seem to be thorough, fair and consistent. However, not all the many excursions into humour and photography in *Frog Buttress* are successful, and the grading is typically generous. The claim that Carrion Comfort (25) is 'possibly the hardest pure crack climb in the country' is absurd. The omission of nearby Toad Buttress is a puzzle.

Moonarie, in South Australia's Flinders Ranges, is one of Australia's best climbing areas, but for years visitors and locals alike have been plagued by not having an up-to-date guidebook. This impressive new book looks like remedying that situation for some time. It is a most workman-like production that includes many cliff diagrams but, surprisingly, no map of the area. The photos are generally weak but this is unfortunately the norm with Australian guidebooks. The treatment of aid eliminations is inconsistent, often to the advantage of local climbers. For instance, Mike Law, Mike Stone and the reviewer did uncredited first free ascents of Oedipus and Orion, the latter by a variant. It is not made clear that only one aid was originally used on Medici, and a *total* of one star (for quality) for Medici and Machiavelli is rather 'tight'.

New 'South Wales' guidebook production would be in a parlous state were it not for the irrepressible Andrew Penney. His latest offering has been long needed, there previously being no proper coverage of many of the areas included. It covers a wide range of cliffs around Mt Victoria in the Blue Mountains. While not cheap, the information is generally reliable and the production up to Penney's usual standard with good layout, plenty of maps and photos and a plastic jacket. The climbs may often look insignificant, sandy and riddled with bolts but we are assured that a substantial percentage of them are of classic stature!

CB

Other Titles Received

Going Bush (Land Rover Club of the ACT, 1982, RRP \$5.00 including postage).

Safe Outback Travel by Jack Absalom (The Five Mile Press, reprinted 1983, RRP \$6.95).



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In 1980 Macpac Products of Christchurch introduced GORE-TEX[®] Fabric into the New Zealand market with the "Light Year" lightweight tunnel tent. This was soon followed with clothing accessories in

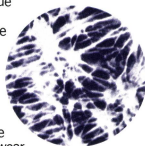
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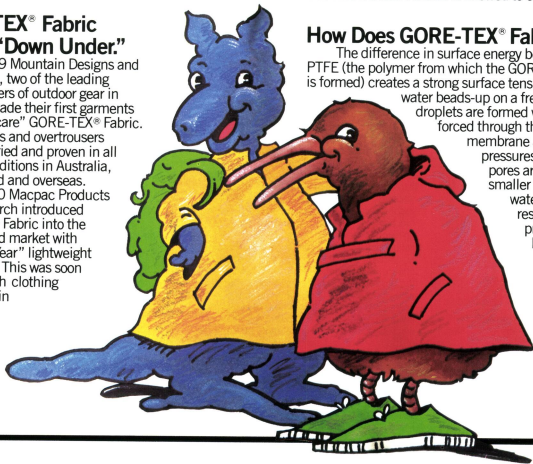
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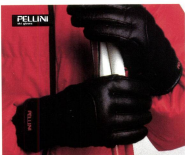
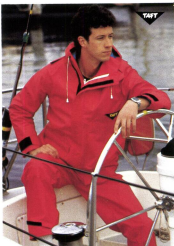
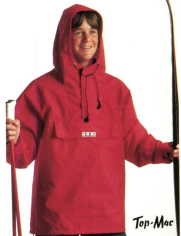
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Wild Gear Survey *Lightweight Cameras*

Integral-lens cameras

	Dimensions	Weight	Focus method	Lens focal length	Lens aperture	Flash power	Location of controls	Features	Price	Comments
Canon										
Snappy 50	134 x 59 x 43 mm	247 g	Auto	35 mm	3.5	12	●	W, R	\$190	Very small, fully automatic
AF35M	132 x 77 x 54	405	Auto, Pfo	38	2.8	14	●●	W, R, T	\$200	Heavy but with good features
AF35ML	125 x 77 x 54	325	Auto, Pfo	40	1.9	14	●●●	W, B	\$270	Easy pre-focus and handles well
Mamiya										
U	115 x 66 x 45	220	Manual	35	2.8	12	●●●	T, B	\$170	Ultra-light, manual focus
M	132 x 75 x 55	430	Auto, Pfo	38	2.8	12	●●	W, R, T	\$185	Heavy but feels good to hold
Minolta										
Hi Matic AF2	129 x 76 x 54	335	Auto, Pfo	38	2.8	12	●●	T, B	\$230	Classic square shape, several similar models
AFC	105 x 68 x 42	215	Auto, Pfo	35	2.8	12	●●●	T, D	\$260	Unique appearance, very functional
Nikon										
L35AF	124 x 73 x 46	345	Auto, Pfo	35	2.8	10	●●●	W, R, T, B	\$260	Packed with well-designed features
Nikonos	149 x 99 x 58	900	Manual	35/80	2.5/4	no flash	●●	Tim	\$650	Very heavy, tough and waterproof
Olympus										
XA2	102 x 65 x 40	200	Manual	35	3.5	10 or 16	●●	T	\$180	Two optional flashes, manual focus model
XA	102 x 65 x 40	225	Rangefinder	35	2.8	10 or 16	●●	T	\$230	Two optional flashes, very compact
Pentax										
PC35AF	116 x 67 x 46	276	Auto, Pfo	35	2.8	11	●●●	T, BL, Aw	\$200	Optional winder, a versatile camera
Ricoh										
FF1S	107 x 65 x 36	225	Manual	35	2.8	no flash	●	T	\$120	Super-thin with classic pop-up lens
AF5	129 x 79 x 55	330	Auto, Pfo	38	2.8	12	●●●	W, R, T, B	\$200	Classic square shape, feels good to handle
FF3AF	130 x 70 x 41	290	Auto, Pfo	35	3.2	12	●●	W, R, T, B	\$230	Slimline model with slower lens

Single lens reflex cameras

	Body dimensions	Body weight	Weight with lens	Standard lens	Lens aperture	Shutter speeds	Manual speed(s)	Meter range ISO (ASA)	Price with lens
Nikon									
EM	135 x 85 x 54 mm	460 g	620 g	50 mm	1.8	1- $\frac{1}{1000}$ sec	$\frac{1}{90}$ sec	25-1,600	\$310
Olympus									
OM10	135 x 84 x 50	430	590	50	1.8	1- $\frac{1}{1000}$	$\frac{1}{90}$	25-1,600	\$310
OM20	135 x 84 x 50	430	590	50	1.8	2- $\frac{1}{1000}$	1- $\frac{1}{1000}$	25-1,600	\$410
OM30	135 x 84 x 50	430	590	50	1.8	1- $\frac{1}{1000}$	$\frac{1}{90}$	25-1,600	\$425
Pentax									
ME Super	132 x 83 x 50	445	605	50	2.0	4- $\frac{1}{7000}$	$\frac{1}{25}$	12-1,600	\$400
MG	132 x 85 x 50	420	575	50	2.0	1- $\frac{1}{1000}$	$\frac{1}{100}$	25-1,600	\$300

● THERE IS A LARGE RANGE OF CAMERAS AVAILABLE on the Australian market designed to suit widely varying needs. To narrow the range of this survey it was decided to look closely at lightweight cameras only. All cameras included are full frame 35 millimetre cameras and can be divided into two categories, the viewfinder and integral (non-removeable) lens cameras; and the heavier single lens reflex (SLR) cameras. Models were chosen because of their light weight, availability, after-sales repair and servicing and general reliability.

For walkers, climbers and skiers, light weight is important, but imposes limitations. If a single viewpoint is adequate then an integral-lens camera of 220 to 300 grams will be ideal. However, if several lenses are desired, the SLR is the only choice and the weight immediately doubles to about 600 grams with the standard lens. Additional lenses add more to the load carried, so weight must be balanced against the desired lenses. For outdoor uses, the integral lens is adequate in most cases for people and general scenery. For flowers and other close-up detail, critical framing of scenes and general telephoto work, the SLR is the only choice.

Integral-Lens Cameras

Integral-lens cameras are very light and easy to operate yet include features for those who wish to get better photos than ordinary snapshots. All those surveyed have sharp lenses with a medium-wide angle of about 35 to 40 millimetres. This angle approximates the normal view of the eye. All of the models have automatic exposure and this is becoming standard. This will work well in normal lighting situations but has problems coping with strong back-lighting. This is because the meter assumes an average tone for exposing and attempts to expose accordingly, but there are several ways around this.

1 The Nikon L35 AF and the Pentax PC 35 AF both have a back-light compensation lever in a handy location. Depressing this lever lightens the exposure considerably, thus giving approximately the correct exposure for faces in shadow. This can also be used creatively in other situations where a lighter exposure is required, such as when photographing bright subjects like snow.

2 Virtually all the cameras in this group have a built-in flash or an easily attached flash. For back-lighting this is easily used to achieve correct exposure. Simply turn it on or pop the flash up, wait for the 'ready' light to glow and take the picture as normal. The automatic exposure will set the flash correctly to illuminate the faces and the remainder will be exposed as normal. This is an excellent feature because Australia has strong,

high-contrast lighting in summer. Black shadows usually result as most photographers don't think to use flash during the day. With the flash unit conveniently in place, it should be used more often.

3 The third method of altering exposure for automatics is to alter the ISO (film speed) dial. This works well but is not generally recommended as it is too easy to forget to move it back or, worse still, forget what the original speed setting was. Further, it is difficult to move this setting easily as it is usually positioned where it cannot be accidentally moved.

Autofocus is now becoming standard for most of the better integral-lens cameras. This works by the camera sending out a beam of light (usually infra red) which is reflected back to a sensor. The beam used is very narrow, hence the focus is set to the central spot in the viewfinder. This is a tremendous help, especially in low light and for flash work at night; sharp photos every time! A problem occurs when the subject is not in the centre of the picture. To overcome this difficulty there is a pre-focus facility on most models. To use this, frame the subject in the centre of the viewfinder, depress the shutter button a little to set and lock the focus, then move the camera to re-frame the subject and shoot it. This should also become a heavily-used feature.

Rangefinder focus models are still about. This is a traditional method, where two images are seen in the viewfinder until correct focus is achieved, when they are seen as one image. It works well but is difficult to use in low light and slower for action shots or moving subjects.

Manual focussing by means of a ring is still common on simple models. This involves guessing the distance, and is often shown with diagrams of people and mountains. With a wide angle lens and a little care, good results can be obtained.

Waterproofing is a problem with cameras. Only the Nikonos is waterproof, although most will stand a shower for a short period. Small cameras are easier to keep dry, a good reason to select one.

Several of the integral-lens models have a power wind-on which operates after each exposure. This enables sequences to be taken and is very handy for action. Combined with the fast-changing auto focus, it is possible to take sharp photos of fast-changing events which are normally very difficult to photograph. However, a problem with a power wind-on is that large quantities of film can be used.

Often a power rewind is found on the power wind-on models. This makes it quick to rewind but it is not usually needed for outdoor use. An important aspect of power winding is that the camera should indicate visibly or audibly that the film is being correctly advanced or rewound.

Electronic beeper systems are found on several of the integral-lens models. This seems to be a bit gimmicky at first, but is actually quite useful as it can warn the photographer that the light is too low or that there is no film. Lights (LEDs) are used in the viewfinders of some models to indicate the same error conditions. If you wish to have a silent camera for the bush, it is best to avoid the audible systems.

Modern lenses are excellent on most cameras and all give an acceptably sharp photograph. In general, the lenses with a wider aperture (that is, a lower aperture number) are sharper. As well, they can take pictures at lower light levels. But they are more expensive, and heavier, as they use more glass; the trade-off between weight and performance again.

The Nikonos is, strictly speaking, not an integral-lens camera as its lenses can be swapped. Apart from automatic exposure metered through the lens (there is a single manual shutter speed of a 90th of a second) the Nikonos IVA is manually operated. Waterproof to over 100 metres, its simplicity, ruggedness and resilience make it ideal in demanding environments despite its weight.

Single Lens Reflex Cameras

With their greater weight and more complex functions, this group of cameras is for the more serious photographer. The main advantage is the ability to change the lenses which allows a wider range of photographic subjects to be taken. The diversity of lenses available is greatest for this type of camera, and varies from incredibly wide fish-eye lenses to extreme telephotos. The main problem, however, is the increased weight of equipment and subsequent lightening of pocket, as good extra lenses are not cheap!

The cameras surveyed here are very similar to each other in features and operation. They were selected for their low weight and ease of operation. All operate automatically for exposure setting, which simplifies general use, and each has some sort of manual override system when needed. All the standard lenses are manually focussed and are of a 50 millimetre focal length, a little narrower in picture angle compared to the fixed lens cameras.

In selecting an SLR system, consider it as a system and not a single camera. After all, you are getting this type of camera because of lens flexibility. The brands surveyed all have lightweight lenses available in the most commonly used focal lengths. These lenses perform similarly for general photography and are quite adequate. A word of warning here is that many of the independent brand lenses (non-camera brands) are of a noticeably poorer quality. This applies particularly to the zoom

lenses and it is best to avoid these cheap lenses.

If you are serious about your photography and don't mind a small increase in weight, there are a lot more SLRs to consider than those surveyed and which do offer differing features. Often a photographer starting with a lightweight SLR, later obtains a more advanced model. If the same brand is chosen then the lenses and most other accessories are fully usable, and the initial investment is not wasted.

Light equipment is easy to use and easy to carry but not as resistant to hard bumps and rough treatment. The minimum protection for an expensive camera should be the case usually supplied with the camera. For rough use, a heavily padded bag or case should be considered. These are not expensive (relative to a camera's value) and give excellent cheap insurance. Usually they are made from closed cell foam and the variety available is extensive. To complete your insurance, take out an all risks policy on your expensive camera items.

The operation of all the cameras surveyed is dependent on batteries. Spare batteries should always be carried. Weights given are manufacturers claimed weights in grams without battery. As most batteries are tiny and also vary in weight between different types, weight with battery was not considered.

A meter range (ISO, previously known as ASA) of 25 to 400 covers all the popular films. All the cameras surveyed cover this range. If contemplating use of the extremely high speed films that are becoming available, a 800 or 1,000 setting will be handy. At such high speeds, film is very grainy and most of the integral-lens cameras have a built-in flash, so a high ISO setting is not really needed.

Flash power is specified in metric for 100 ISO film. The higher the number, the brighter the flash. All the internal flashes are suitable for subjects from one to four metres distant. As there are only small differences in the power of flashes they can be considered to be virtually identical in practice.

Location of controls refers to an assessment of how the camera feels to hold and whether the controls are logically and easily placed. Some cameras are very stable to hold. This is obtained by a good grip and chunky feel. Others feel unstable and could be more prone to camera shake (actually operator shake!) yet are roughly the same weight. ●

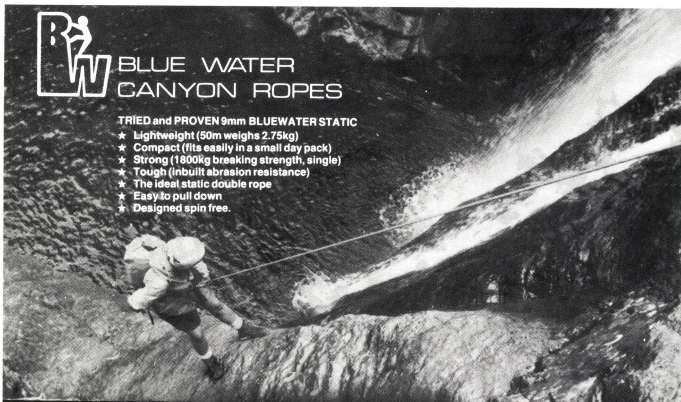
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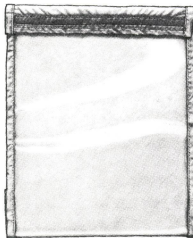
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Equipment

• **Blue Mountains Packs.** Further to the item on High Tops Equipment in *Wild* no 9, another pack manufacturer has emerged from the Blue Mountains. **Summit**, from Katoomba, makes teardrop-style day packs and large day packs. The models and their prices are: **Boyd** \$19.90 (20 to 25 litres); **Jamison** \$30 (37 litres); **Rockmaster** \$40 (37 litres). More information can be obtained from Katoomba Outdoor Centre.

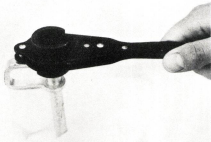
• **Self Sew.** Unlike other manufacturers of clothing, **Outdoor Wear** of Cooma offers its goods in **kit** form. If you have a sewing machine and know how to use it, then Outdoor Wear supply fabrics, zippers, buckles and, most importantly, instructions. Kits are available in both adult and children's sizes.

• **Bright Spot.** **Eveready** has released a range of superior **torches** under the name **Energizer**. Of interest to the bushwalker is the Pocket Cambolite. It consists of a four-watt fluoro lamp, which is good for reading, together with a conventional spotlight. With four AA batteries it weighs 200 grams and has a RRP of \$19.60.

Solid brass torches are also made, the two D-cell model being of most interest. RRP \$12.55.

Made in Hong Kong, Energizer torches seem durable, with reliable switches and bright argon bulbs. It is a pity they don't make an ultra-light torch.

• **A Quick Screw.** **Chouinard** has designed a **ratchet** for rapid placement of his ice screws. Beautifully light at 100 grams, it has no reverse



mechanism to freeze up. One side is used for placing, the other for removal.

The ratchet fits like a glove over Chouinard screws, but the fit is not as good over Salewa screws. It might be necessary to file some excess off the screw for a proper fit.

The Chouinard ratchet retails for \$25.

• **Pak-Gammon.** For those wet days, hut- or tent-bound, **Caribou Mountaineering** is making **lightweight backgammon**, chess and checkers sets. With a cloth playing board, a set weighs only 130 grams and rolls into a neat package. They are distributed by Verglas and retail for \$19.90 a set. We guess it beats watching your tent leak.

• **Fleece.** **Macpacc Wilderness Equipment's** **Polarfleece** jackets and pullovers are made of brushed Chinese Fortrel, an interesting fabric which, unlike fibre pile, is smooth on both sides. Not quite as warm as fibre pile, it is more tightly woven and therefore slightly more wind-resistant. The garments come in a range of fashionable colours, look almost too smart for the bush and retail for just over \$70.

• **Wayne Gets Some Stick!** For the walker who has (almost) everything, the carved mountain **walking stick** imported from Austria by **Karrimor Australia** is a *must*. Amongst other things, it might be used for levering open reluctant wallets on visits to gear shops! RRP about \$18.

• **Biltong.** It takes several hours of hard chewing to eat a morsel of real South African biltong. Strips of dried beef, it looks and tastes like leather.

Mountain Man from Western Australia also makes biltong. Its product is a lot more palatable although it still takes some chewing. Available in both stick form and packs of slices, it is said to be high in protein and low in fat.

• **Pack Chat.** Since reporting the availability of American **MEI** packs in *Wild* no 8, we have had the chance to see one of their models, the **Baby Clipper**. A medium-sized travel pack, it has a zip-off front pocket which becomes a day pack. Typical of the genre, a large flap zips up over the suspension system, turning it in a suitcase.

The Air-Flex suspension system looks interesting. A mesh back tensions a flexible aluminium X-frame, thus keeping the pack off the wearer's back and allowing air circulation. It is adjustable to different back lengths and should be quite good for an Australian summer.

• **Harnessed.** New Zealand's **Aspiring Enterprises** has released a new model of its one-piece **climbing harness**. A relatively complicated affair, it remains to be seen how secure its buckle arrangement is in, admittedly uncommon, situations when the buckle might be lifted against a projection in a fall. The harness emphasizes support of the buttocks, as opposed to the thighs, which might make it relatively comfortable for prolonged suspension. RRP \$48.60.

• **Open Fire.** If the American market is any indication, the glamour rockclimbing boot for 1984 is going to be the Spanish Fire (pronounced fee-ray). Verglas Australia moved with characteristic nimbleness to tie up the Australian distributorship. Fire seems to have it all: edging, fit, suede uppers and, above all, excellent friction. At a RRP of over \$100 they will be more expensive than most boots and they are not magic, despite what some people appear to suggest. But, judging by the pair we tested, they will take some beating.

• **Multiviews on Multigrade.** **Karhu Multigrade** skis were released in Australia during 1983 with a flurry of activity and a ringing

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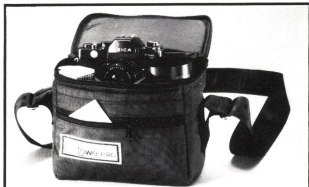
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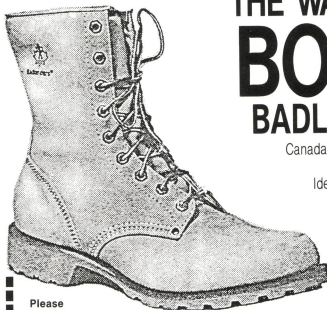
Each case allows quick access to all items, provides convenient organisation, is logical in size and deceptively light. They carry comfortably, distribute the load properly and work with the photographer, not against him. They also look good enough to blend into any situation, whether it be shooting your sister's wedding or cycling across China.

But remember, the best in camera protection is only available at a Wild Special 25% off for the month of December, and only at Mountain Designs Shops.



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of cash registers. Unlike other waxless bases, Multigrade is designed to alter with temperature, a fact which, in theory, makes Multigrade the closest thing to skiing with wax.

What are the reactions to Multigrade after a winter of use? They range from some shop assistants refusing to sell Multigrade skis, to high praise. Nevertheless, there is some common ground.

It appears that wet snow conditions, which are very common in Australia, suit Multigrade best. In these conditions, stiff fibres protrude from the elastic polymer giving good grip. Glide is also reasonable. On firm, packed, and even icy snow, Multigrade seems acceptable.

It is in snow around 0°C or colder that most problems occur. These range from balling-up (snow sticking to the base) to loss of grip.

By using Multigrade spray (silicon), balling-up can often be eliminated. As skis do pick up other people's wax from ski tracks, periodic cleaning of the base with a wax remover is also advised. If balling-up persists, smoothing the base by rubbing with steel wool is your last hope.

For lack of grip, the opposite needs to be done. Rubbing with fine-grade sandpaper roughens up the base, increasing grip.

Multigrade cannot handle two types of snow conditions at the same time. For example, skiing from icy snow through fresh patches of powder, the skier has the sensation of stopping dead. The only suggestion in this situation is to 'bend ze knees'.

Next year the Multigrade section on most models will be lengthened from 54 to 74 centimetres, to increase grip.

Multigrade is more suited to advanced skiers than to beginners; good performance can be achieved, in most conditions, with a little know-how.

• **1984 Ski Preview.** News is good for cross country skiing for 1984. Lower prices on some items and high quality are the 1984 buzz words. Everything you could possibly want, including a release binding, better poles, a budget-priced heel lock-down, two-wheeled roller skis, new Asolo boots and a \$342 pair of poles!

Except for Mountain Valley and Voni, each of which has an impressive range, little other specialized cross country clothing is available. Verglas seam-sealed Gore-Tex (\$102-\$374) and Vitesse's pile clothing will adequately meet any waterproof and insulation requirements for both Australian and overseas skiing.

Excellent skis abound, though some peculiar marketing trends are evident with faddish downhill skiing. Telemark mania sweeping the country has resulted in a profusion of downhill-style racing skis, loosely labelled 'Telemark'. With their stiff tips and tails and soft alpine cambered middles, they are superb for icy downhill skiing, but unsatisfactory for general touring. The moral of the story is to use the ski the way it was made to be used.

Some notable new skis shown were Jarvenin Laser 50 (\$96) with combination Neverwax and pattern kicker, metal edge Edsbyn TXC 363 (\$187) (which would be an excellent powder downhill ski) and Atomic Leader (\$165) with micro-step moulded into a sintered base which is good for touring.

Karhu's Bearclaw range, including the new economy Country BC (\$80) model, now features more durable milled bases. The faster 46 Bearclaw (\$120) has softer tips and tails, similar to Fischer skis. Kodiak (\$159) a lightweight non-metal edge, waisted touring ski fills the last hole in Karhu's range. Fischer skis generally remain unchanged except that Europa 99 Crown (\$220) now features an insert crown kicker milled from

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sintered P-tex for durability. The Super Crown S (\$185) is notable as an ultra-lightweight touring ski.

Disappointingly, the Asnes T and E series have been discontinued. U series skis which replace them have softer tips and tails and a choice of waxed or waxless quickstep bases. U 54 (\$108) and U 49 (\$98) are pleasant waited touring skis. MT 54 (\$183) is available for the first time in quickstep option and with Telemark (\$165) are the only remaining torsion base models in the range.

The range of budget skis is considerably enlarged with models from most manufacturers. Last year's outstanding cheapie, Dynastar Drakkar, is now the Fjord (\$89) and is joined by Karhu Country BC (\$80), Hagan Zurs (\$70), Lech (\$53), and Spalding Polar S (\$79). They appear to be well made and if they hold together, should perform satisfactorily at entry level.

In boots, Salomon has added SR 60 (\$79), a high boot of synthetic leather and internal lace-up sock and a general touring sole. American Merrell boots are now represented here by two vibram-soled models. The flagship, XCD (\$155), boasts the only Velcro strap closure system in Australia. As a sales incentive, a quality foam-lined sock is included with every pair of Merrell boots sold. Asolo's entirely new Glissade series (\$107-\$123) has one-piece leather uppers varying in height from model to model. Sole flex is progressive, yet stiff in torsion and it has a solid built-in steel toe reinforcement. Alpina has at last released one of its American-market boots in Australia. It's the Teton (\$79) and ought to carve a niche as a solid touring boot. The Alpina Kristy (\$42) is an attractive and durable grey boot lasted to fit women's feet. Aalttonen (Skiing Finn) has a silver-coloured, insulated double boot for extreme conditions (\$74).

Pitt's release heel lock-down device (\$18.40) will appeal to many. Simaka quick-fit snow chains (\$34-\$155) are now sensibly size coded with varying coloured plastic hoops. For the first time, low coefficient teflon-base speed treatments are available in liquid form from Maxiglide (\$16.00) and Holley (\$6.50).

Racers and tourers alike will find Ski Fix (\$6.50) ski pole holders functional and durable. Polypropylene mohair strip (\$2.90 a metre) can be bought at last and will reduce objections to traditional mohair. Atomic leather X-C gloves (\$18-\$23) fit well and seem well made. From Geze is the first release X-C binding here; the 50S (\$33). It releases sideways in a fall and deserves consideration from any skier travelling in thick soupy snow. Unfortunately it is not available in nordic norm, only in 50/7 and 50/12 norms.

The demise of tonkin poles has continued and the void seems certain to be filled by a multitude of aluminium poles, the majority of which are vastly improved over previous years' models. Swix sells the largest range, from \$14 to \$43, and has the distinction of the most expensive racing pole, a boron-shafted model selling for just \$342 (pair), but weighing a meagre 110 grams. For gear freaks, the model is SB110. (Thanks Phil, we'll tell Wayne — Ed.) Swix also has one of the few heavy-duty mountain touring models (\$43). Klemm and Gipron also have mountain touring poles (\$58 and \$55 respectively) which are extendable. The former is adjustable in fixed increments to 148 centimetres and the latter is infinitely adjustable to 145 centimetres.

On a bright luxurious final note, look out for brilliant red and blue socks (\$20.30) from Karrimor made of fine wool and silk.

Philip Coleman



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Contributors

Joss Haiblen has lived and travelled in the wild areas of Canada and Australia and his life and livelihood revolve round wilderness travel and wilderness preservation. He has been greatly encouraged by the environmental awareness that is being fostered by Australian conservation groups.

In Canada Joss has made numerous trips in all seasons, and he is particularly interested in traditional Indian techniques and concepts of travel. In Australia he is on the staff of several adventure travel organizations as a snowcraft and skiing instructor and a canoeing and rafting guide.

Nancy Lane, American by birth, has adopted Australia — she now has an Australian husband and two Australian children.

Nancy has done a lot of backpacking in California and was also an enthusiastic white water river rafter: she has rafted the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, and the Rio



areas of the eastern States before migrating to Western Australia in 1971.

The Tassell family now lives at Carnarvon, and David concentrates on photographing and writing articles on outdoor subjects. He is also building an eight metre sailing vessel which he hopes will broaden his horizons by enabling him to visit offshore wilderness areas.



Bill and Jane Thompson have seized every opportunity to increase their outdoor experiences. While many families with children curtail such activities, the Thompsons have shown that most trips are still possible, if at a slower pace; they have made extensive exploratory canoe trips in the Northern Territory and north-west Queensland and have explored many of Queensland's more obscure National Parks, such as Porcupine Creek. The children both began camping when seven days old and can now coast up grade 13 rockclimbs. Bill and Jane are custard apple farmers and Jane, a trained nurse, is actively involved in health and nutrition.

Gary Tischer has been interested in bushwalking since early childhood when he used to accompany his parents on camping and walking trips. Now aged 23, he has also become involved in photography and rockclimbing and has visited most of southern Queensland's interesting outdoor areas, including Girraween, the Glasshouse Mountains, Frog Buttress and Mt Barney.

When not wandering the countryside, he is employed by TAA.

Jeff Williams is a 'Kiwi' by birth. He is now a researcher at the Australian War Memorial and is undertaking post-graduate studies in Australian history at the Australian National University. Living in Canberra, he has naturally fallen for the lure of the mountains.

A devoted ski tourer and bushwalker, Jeff recently became keen on climbing and has been to Europe and revisited New Zealand to learn more of a fascinating sport. He has bushwalked in most of the challenging parts of New South Wales and Tasmania and has tramped extensively in his native Southern Alps of New Zealand. He is 28 years old.

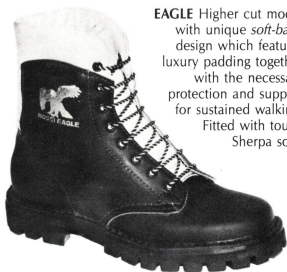
de la Pasion and Usamacinta on the Mexico-Guatemala border. She now enjoys exploring Australia in the intervals of working at her job as head of the library school at Canberra College of Advanced Education.

Chris McLaughlin is an enthusiastic canoeist and is presently involved in an extensive programme of canoeing many of Victoria's previously undocumented streams. As Secretary of the Australian Canoe Federation's Touring Committee, he brought the Federation into the Franklin fight and helped to launch the Olegas Truchanas Canoeing Award. A self-employed electronics technician, Chris lists his other interests as skiing, photography and reading (mostly maps).

David Tassell was born in Victoria and trained as a metal-worker, but he became interested in the outdoors as a teenager and that was the end of metal-working. He spent several years travelling in the National Parks and wilderness

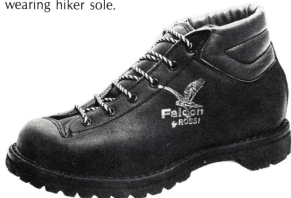
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Wildfire

Wilderness Reporting

Just before dashing out of the office and shop the other night, I picked up the spring edition of *Wild*. I buried myself in the corner of a 401 bus and fended off the horrors of peak-hour Sydney by leafing through the excellent photographs and articles.

However it was your editorial on the results of the High Court decision which really made me think. Wild Publications has given invaluable support to the Wilderness Society in its fight to save the South-west and, in recent years, the Franklin. Your thoughts recognizing the vulnerability of wilderness in Tasmania are encouraging; particularly when so many well-meaning Australians think that having won the Franklin, the fight is now over. Thank you also for the last points in your editorial calling on thinking and conservation-minded people to become 'active and committed members of an effective conservation body such as the Australian Conservation Foundation or the Wilderness Society'.

Without any Government funding such as the ACF enjoys, the Wilderness Society has an even harder battle to keep its membership informed and abreast of the dealings of developers, logging and mining industries and the mindless meanderings of Premier Gray's Government.

Once again, many thanks to all at Wild Publications for committed and sensitive 'wilderness reporting'.

Katrina Bard
Office Co-ordinator
Wilderness Society
Sydney, NSW

Surveyed

I was interested to read the survey of lightweight tents in the recent edition of *Wild*. There is certainly a good range on the market, but one idea that does not seem to be represented here is the double-skin concept made by Stephensons in the USA. I bought one of these a few years ago by mail order and found that it does work as well as claimed.

The idea is for a double-skin design with both layers proofed. The insulating air gap allows for higher internal temperatures, and thereby avoids condensation. By designing the correct ventilation pattern into the tent, moist air is moved to the outside, rather than condensing on to the fly.

The other innovation it uses is an ultra-lightweight reinforced nylon: half the weight for the same strength.

I was sufficiently impressed with its design to build my own tent using a modified design that allowed for a detachable fly, and a vestibule. The result was a roomy, well-ventilated, lightweight tent system that can be adapted to different circumstances. For lightweight summer walking the fly and vestibule are unnecessary, and with hollow fibreglass poles the all-up weight is 1.3 kilograms. For more demanding weather, the fly, vestibule and heavier poles add about 0.9 kilograms to give a total weight of 2.2 kilograms. The tent has weathered violent storms in Victoria, Tasmania and Europe, and has plenty of room for cooking and eating.

My point is that we have tended to carry the same tent under all sorts of different conditions. By having the freedom to take or leave some

of the components we can make our burden considerably easier, and perhaps more comfortable. A 1.3 kilogram tent is often a better proposition than two bivvy bags, for example. The other assumption is that all double-skin tents are based on the same principle. This is not so, and while different principles have different drawbacks, it would be useful to readers to know about these. Also, the construction of one's own tent is not too difficult, and the materials can be obtained with little trouble. For the budget minded, the cost is a lot less than the price asked by retailers for commercial tents.

Fritz Balkau
Fitzroy, Vic

Parking

The Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service is concerned that many visitors from interstate are not aware of the camping system applying to Queensland National Parks.

Growing numbers are arriving at the popular Parks like Carnarvon to find all space taken and thus their holiday plans are upset.

A permit to camp is required before camping on any National Park whether or not there is a developed campground. Certain restrictions apply, such as no backpack camping within two kilometres of a developed campground.

A site booking system allows written application for a particular Park at least six weeks, but no longer than 12 weeks, in advance.

Applications should include a group leader's name, address and vehicle registration, number in the party, date of expected arrival and duration of visit, number and type of camping structures/vehicles, proposed camping site, whether the party is from a club, and whether an alternate date or area in the Park could be acceptable.

Applications should be sent to the addresses in the camping guide brochure or alternatively to Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service regional offices in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns.

The applicant will be notified in his stamped self-addressed envelope not later than four weeks before the proposed visit whether a site has been reserved.

Late applications by phone, in writing or in person are considered only if a site is still available.

The ranger will issue a camping permit which gives the Service a visitation record and some check on parties going to more remote areas. There is no charge for booking, permit or camping in Queensland National Parks.

The Service seeks your help in spreading the word about the camping system. Of course, considerate visitors notify the Service if they change their plans so sites will not be held, thus depriving others.

GW Saunders
Director
Queensland National Parks
and Wildlife Service
Brisbane, Qld

Readers' letters are welcome. A selection will be published in this column. Letters of less than 200 words are more likely to be published. Write to the Editor, Wild, PO Box 415, Prahran, Victoria, 3181.

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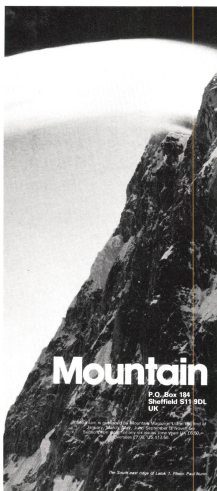
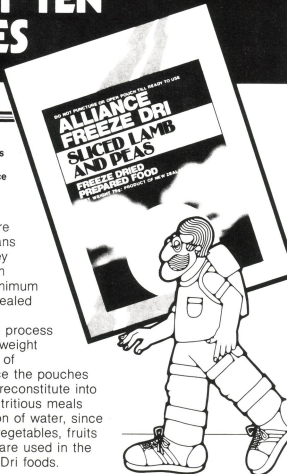
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Club News

Clubs are invited to use this column to advertise their existence for the benefit of novices and newcomers to their areas, to keep members in touch and to give notice of their meetings and other events.

20 cents a word (minimum \$3.00) for the first 50 words, then 50 cents a word, prepaid. Send notice and payment to Wild Publications Pty Ltd, PO Box 415, Prahran, Victoria 3181.

Australian Rogaining Association: for those interested in long-distance, cross-country navigation there is a full programme of 12- and 24-hour rogaines in the coming year. Highlights include National championships and State titles (NSW, WA) in spring, and Victorian championships in autumn. Details: VRA, 1 Coppin Street, East Malvern, 3145; WARA, 337 Marmion Street, Cottesloe, 6011; NSWRA c/- Jeremy Challacombe, Newholme Research, Tibster via Armidale, 2350; G Carter, 16 Carlie Road, Westbourne Park, 5041; G Davis, Wandoo, Crabtree Road, Grove, 7106.

A book, *Rogaining*, available from ORIA, Box 228, Cottesloe, 6011 or Box 47, Benteigh, 3204 for \$8.00.

Beginners welcome at all rogaines. Entry fee of \$8.00-\$15.00 head covers map and meals.

The Victorian Climbing Club meets at 8 pm on the last Thursday of each month (except December, and second last Thursday in September) at 188 Gatehouse Street, Parkville 3052. Visitors and new members interested in rockclimbing are welcome. Contact the Secretary, GPO Box 1725P, Melbourne, Victoria 3001.

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Shell and Liner Materials:

We use light, tough 1.9 oz down-proof nylon fabric for the job. This nylon is used exclusively on all outers, walls and on the liners of every bag, with the exception of the Treeline 620 where Downia use a superfine 2.2 oz cotton inner, accepting that the extra comfort is worth the slight (.3 oz square yard) additional weight.

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All Downia hoods are continuous with the main body of the bag and share the same internal construction; box walling on the Treeline and Snowfields and slant walling on the Glacier. All hoods are fitted with a locking cord grip and may be adjusted anywhere from from fully open to fully closed.



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Design/style	Fill weight	Total weight	Rating	Coastal 3 season	Mountain summer	Coastal winter	Mountain 3 season	Mountain winter	Ski touring	Expedition
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600 Treeline Mummy	600	1.3	-3° C	Good	Very good	Very good	Excellent	Acceptable	—	—
920 Snowfield Modified Rectangular	920	1.9	-8° C	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Very good	Acceptable	—
900 Snowfield Mummy	900	1.8	-12° C	Acceptable	Good	Very good	Very good	Excellent	Very good	—
1100 Glacier Mummy	1100	2.0	-20° C	—	—	Acceptable	Acceptable	Very good	Excellent	Excellent

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David Cole on the Mitta
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Rod Mackenzie and Craig Nottle in Verglas wind-suits at their third bivouac site (6,100 m) during the first alpine-style ascent of the South-west ridge of Changabang (6,864 m), Himalayas, with Mark Moorhead and Jon Muir. The mountain in the background is Nanda Devi (7,816 m). Photo Muir.

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